

[Hari Vishnu Kamath]

of his reply to a letter from Shri N. G. Goray, High Commissioner of India in the United Kingdom, regarding the alleged death of Shri Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in an air-crash over Taipeh in Taiwan in August, 1945, stated that there is no record of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's death in his archives. Considering the extraordinary national and international importance of this matter and in view of the fact that the Indian people's minds have been greatly exercised over the truth or otherwise of the report of Netaji's death in the alleged air-crash, it is the duty of the Government, in the national interest, to place on the Table of the House without any delay the full text of the correspondence exchanged between Shri N. G. Goray and Lord Mountbatten on this subject.

May I ask you, Sir, whether a copy of this statement will go to the Government?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will be sent to the Government.

14-49 hrs.

PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Passports (Amendment) Bill, Mr. Kundu.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): Sir, I have great pleasure in moving this Passports (Amendment) Bill....

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Minister wants to increase the fee, if I am not wrong, by this piece of legislation from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. It is a Money Bill according to the Constitution. Therefore, the permission of the President is necessary. May I know whether the permission of the President has been taken for

moving this Bill? If the permission has not been taken, then it cannot be moved and it cannot be taken up for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not a Money Bill in the sense that it is not an expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of India. It is just a fee.

"A Bill shall not be deemed to be a Money Bill by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered, or by reason that it provides for the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes".

That is what the Constitution says. So, this is not a money Bill in that sense.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Further to Mr. Gupta's point....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, that has been disposed of.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am on another point.

Although this Bill is coming for the first time today for consideration, my information is that Government are already charging Rs. 50 pending Parliament's approval. I want to know whether that is in order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That does not arise out of this Bill. You can take it up with the Government when you speak on it, if this is so. This is not to be raised at this stage. If the Government is charging something illegal, other courses are open to you: you can speak about it when you speak on the Bill.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: We want to know whether this fee of Rs. 50 is being charged or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It does not arise at this stage.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Passports Act, 1967 be taken into consideration.”

I must thank all Members of the House for the excellent cooperation that we have received during the last few months in giving the passports in the shortest possible time to the people and also making it available to a large number of people. We had given some responsibility to the Members and they, on their own, also took up some responsibility—the responsibility of verifying certain passport applications. I also want to thank them because I think more than 1,50,000 passport applications have been verified by the Hon. Members and this has helped the people to get passports very quickly.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): But this was very difficult for us: you must understand our difficulty!

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, during the Emergency we found the people of India as if they were in a big prison, that is, prison of India. One of the first things that we took up was to grant them freedom to move one of the Constitutional rights—the fundamental rights which have been given to them. We made certain quick changes which could be done administratively at that time, and one of the changes is that we allowed free endorsement to all the countries except South Africa and Rhodesia. Since we found there was great rush and the petitions for passports from people came like a thundering shower—they wanted to go out: they were choked up;—we mobilised the machinery in such a way that it could come to their help. We immediately put in additional staff of 375 clerks and also put in some officers. Some of our staff—

I also take this opportunity to thank them in this forum of Parliament—worked hard and at times into the night to dispose of some urgent and important passports. Also, during the Emergency, for no reason or rhyme, many passports were impounded and we took the first chance to undo that. At least 200 passports which had been impounded were released from this sort of impoundment.

I would now like to give some figures about the passports that were issued during the last two and a half years. In 1975, about 4.25 lakhs passports were issued; in 1976, it increased to 5.73 lakhs passports.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): How many passports were refused?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: You must enjoy eating the fruits; you should not count, how many are rotten.

In 1977, the figures jumped upto nine lakhs from 5.73 lakhs in 1976. By the end of June this year, we have already issued 7 lakhs passports and by the close of this year, we hope that the figure will reach near about 18 lakhs.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Have they all left the country, or have simply taken the passports?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I do not know that. Some time back, I visited Ernakulam passport office and I saw a youngman applying for a passport. I asked him why he was applying for a passport. His friend said that he wanted to get married. So, some people also want a passport to get married.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: What was your reaction?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I have always a passport.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
What about your senior and boss?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: All of you should join to see that my senior colleague also gets a passport for this purpose. Shri Kamathji wanted to know how many applications for passports have been rejected. Perhaps, he wanted to know the arrears, the pending applications. Even now, the arrears are quite high; more than 2.5 lakh applications are still pending.

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): How many passports were refused during Emergency?..... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
He wants notice for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Generally, passports are not refused. Only in a few cases, they are refused, otherwise they are kept pending.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Now, Sir, there were very few passport offices all over India and some of these offices catered to the need of 3 to 4 States. We want to see that every State has a passport or a sub-regional passport office. We have already opened two passport offices, one in Bangalore and the other in Calicut. In Ernakulam, there was a very big rush of applications for passports; we, therefore, opened a sub-regional office at Calicut. Kerala is the only State all over India, where we have two passport offices, one is the full regional passport office and the other is sub-regional passport office. Given your support, encouragement and sympathy, I am sure, in the shortest possible time, we will be able to open passport offices or sub-regional passport offices at least in each State headquarters or wherever the State Governments will desire that the passport offices should be located, or after a discussion with them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Will there be one in Assam?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:
Yes, why not?

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह (होजियापुर) :
भाप ने इसी हाउस में एमोभर किया था कि पंजाब में जालंधर या लुधियाना में बोला जायगा ।

श्री सभरेन्द्र कुम्भू : करेंगे, थोड़ा सा फुरसत होने दीजिये ।

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (बजुराहो) :
मध्य प्रदेश बहुत बड़ा प्रदेश है—वहां पर भी इस की जरूरत है ।

श्री सभरेन्द्र कुम्भू : वहां भी होगा ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से सब लोग खड़े होंगे तो काम कैसे चलेगा, कोई मध्य प्रदेश के लिये खड़े हो जायेंगे तो कोई आन्ध्र प्रदेश के लिये खड़े हो जायेंगे ।

श्री निर्मल चन्द्र जैन (सिवनी) :
इन्होंने बचन दिया था, अब ये बचन भंग कर रहे हैं ।

श्री सभरेन्द्र कुम्भू : पहले भाप इनको बोल लेने दीजिये ।

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Some hon. Members said that this Bill is mainly intended to see that the present fee of Rs. 25 is increased to Rs. 50. It is true. Otherwise, the rest are nominal amendments. There was no other way than to increase this fee. Rs. 25 for a period of 5 years—that is, at the rate of Rs. 5 per year. This was there for 17 years. Now the cost of all equipment, wages, rental for buildings and everything has gone up....

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): It was for 8 years....

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:
No, no.

SHRI K. GOPAL: I am helping you.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: No, no. You are misleading me.

SHRI K. GOPAL: I want to correct you. When I got the passport, it was Rs. 15 for 3 years. Subsequently it was increased to Rs. 25 for 5 years.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not try to divert him from his track.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Gopal is a good friend of mine. He wants to go out of his way to mislead me.

It was then for 3 years and the fee was Rs. 15. Then it was raised to Rs. 25 and the period was 5 years. This was the position. Now we want to increase it to Rs. 50.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: You want to, or you have already increased?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Unless you pass this Bill, how can we increase?

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: But you are already charging Rs. 50.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: We are grateful to those people including you who are paying it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Paying in advance.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Therefore, there is a clause here which we have introduced, we are receiving it by departmental orders and that we want to regularise it so that it will be effective after the Bill is passed. That is there in the clause. We can do it by administrative orders. For receiving extra fees we need not come here. We have already done it. You will be giving it a legal sanction. Now that it was illegal but we come to you, you get a

chance to discuss, we take your opinion and support and till there is another increase, Rs. 50 is going to be the fee.

Why are we increasing the fee to Rs. 50? The reasons are these. There was a calculation about the cost of preparing one passport and it came to between Rs. 40 and 45. From the Rs. 50 we get, we will be paying Rs. 3.50 for sending the passport by registered post. Earlier when the fee was Rs. 25, the applicant had to pay Rs. 3.50 towards postal charges for sending the passport by registered post. So, actually, if you deduct Rs. 3.50 from Rs. 50, it comes to Rs. 46.50 per passport. The cost is now Rs. 45. Rs. 1.50 only is the margin. As the cost of this is increasing, may be, by the time we come to you next year, this limit must have been crossed and it could be Rs. 55. For some time we should not vex you for increasing it and I find that the people are ready to pay a little more fee, but they want very quick and every efficient service. For that we need some sort of modern gadgets. In a year if you issue about 9 lakhs passports as we did last year, you have to take the help of modern gadgets.

Some time you do not get the printed passport booklet. These are printed in a particular style and design at a particular press, that is, at Nasik Press.

We need to improve the efficiency of entire establishment. We need electronic gadgets and tabulators. We need at least an office where it should not be completely cramped and huddled into heaps. I have gone to various offices. Files are being heaped like mountains. Clerks and other people are working there breathlessly. Therefore, we have taken a small step ahead hoping that generously, as you have always been, particularly in this matter also will grant us this liberty.

There is nothing else in this Bill.

[Shri Samarendra Kundu]

We have some minor or usual amendments. As the House is aware the Code of Criminal Procedure 1908 has been repealed and replaced by the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and Foreign Exchange Regulations Act 1947 has been repealed and substituted by Foreign Exchange Regulations Act of 1973. This Bill, therefore, makes this substitution in the form of amendment in this Bill. While bringing this Bill, we have also taken the liberty to modify the rule to bring it in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee on subordinate Legislation.

With this I commend this Bill for discussion.

Once again I thank all the Members for giving their co-operation and sympathy and I assure you that everything possible will be done to see, as far as possible the passport is delivered to the people quickly.

I have already made an announcement that within 35 days from the date of application, we will give passport. We will still try to shorten this period.

Whenever there has been some grievance anywhere, we have gone, we have made on the spot inspection. We have made surprise visits. I had gone to Ernakulam and also to Calicut when the passport office was opened. I know how the people there appreciated this act of the Government. I hope we will keep it up with all your co-operation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Passports Act, 1967, be taken into consideration."

There are some motions for circulation and one for referring it to the Joint Committee.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta wanted it to be sent to the Joint Select Committee.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: I am not moving.

SHRI B. RACHAIAH (Chamrajnagar): I rise to make a few observations on the Passport Amendment Bill 1978. In the preliminary remarks, the Minister Incharge of the Bill has explained the scope of the Bill and the necessity for increasing the fee for issue of passport. It is clear also from the statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. The reason given in the Statement of Objects of the Bill is that the cost of issue of passport has increased and therefore to meet that expenditure this change was necessitated. My objection is only this: All those passport applicants whose passports are pending in the passport office after the introduction of this Bill, and before the finalisation of this Bill, have got to pay this enhanced fee. How can this enhanced fee be levied retrospectively? We are only now discussing the Bill and how can you levy this retrospectively? That is my question.

Foreign travel is no longer a monopoly of a few individuals, who may make pleasure trips. There are people who are going in for cultural exchanges and for economic and trade business and for higher studies. There are those who want to seek jobs elsewhere. I am particular about this last class. There are skilled workers and drivers and cooks. They seek jobs in the Gulf countries. About those people I am worried. If you levy a fee of Rs. 50 then it will be difficult for them to pay it. You have increased this period from 3 years to 5 years. This is good. Whatever change you make, it has to be effective only after the President has given his assent to this Bill, for this increased rate. Otherwise it will not be a correct Monetary Bill.

Members of Parliament have been authorised to give certificates to those applicants who seek passports. The MPs represent nearly 8 Assembly Constituencies. They may not be able

to know every person personally. Still, we will have to certify that we know them personally to the best of our 'knowledge and belief' and so on. Unless an oath is taken by the applicant before a magistrate, it will be difficult for the Members to certify that there are no cases against them or that they are not involved in any objectionable activities and so on. I wish to make it clear that this will be too much of a burden on the Members of Parliament. If we ask those people to bring this affidavit from the magistrate, then, they will feel that we are not obliging them at all. So, if we include it here in the rules in respect of issue of passports, then, the responsibility will be there on the Government. M. Ps. will not be blamed for that. So, we will be saving the Member from this embarrassment.

Therefore, I wish to suggest this. Before approaching the M.P. for getting this certificate, the applicant should obtain the affidavit from the magistrate.

Otherwise, he will be put into difficulty. He will refer back the application to the officer or the police to verify their antecedents. So, we do not know each one of them. And on what reason are they going out?

My third point is with regard to the issue of a diplomatic passports to Members of Parliament. The Minister of External Affairs has made a statement in the other House that he will try to issue diplomatic passports to all Members of Parliament who wish to go out. Now, the M.Ps who are included in the Parliamentary Delegation are given the diplomatic passports. But, all the M.Ps are not getting. So, this assurance of the Minister for External Affairs has not yet materialised. I would, therefore, request the Minister to see that it is done.

The fourth point is that in the Gulf countries and other countries the un-

skilled and skilled labourers are being registered by the agents and the firms. According to 1922 immigration Act, the Labour Department has got the power to issue licences to the agents and the firms. I have read in the press that nearly 2,000 agents have been arrested and about 30,000 passports have been seized. It is good some action is taken.

These agents and the firms which have been issued the licences and some unscrupulous people have swindled these unfortunate people; there are unskilled people, farm labourers, who want to go to Australia. The other day the Australian Embassy officials have issued a statement that nearly 40,000 people from Punjab have been decided by these agents and their names have been registered and a good many have been swindled by these people. So, this kind of unscrupulous agents misleading the people who want to seek jobs outside has to be stopped.

The fifth point I want to lay stress on is with regard to starting of some more passport offices in all the States and, particularly, in those States where the skilled people are trying to go out of this country for seeking jobs. Already you have made a statement in the Press that all the States will at least have one passport office. Now, you have been pleased to open one passport office in Bangalore and one in Jaipur and one sub-office in Calcutta. I wanted to press for that. Before that, you have done it so far as Karnataka is concerned. I think you for the game. As regards the delay in the issue of passports, you have said that within 35 days the papers will be processed and the passports will be issued. There are several columns in the rules wherein the applicants have to furnish certain certificates. So many restrictions are also there. You have abolished F form. It is good. But some other restrictions are still there. I want you to go through the rules and streamline the same. This will reduce the burden on the applicant. About 6,000

[Shri B. Rachaiah]

Indians who have gone abroad got stranded there for want of immigration certificates. We should not put our people in a difficult position. Though it is a separate thing, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to this important human aspect. These facts have to be taken into consideration while we supply our technocrats, doctors, engineers and technicians. Some of them are finding difficulty in other countries and they feel they are not properly treated. They have to take care of. I hope the enthusiastic Minister who wants to remove the bottlenecks in the way of getting passports will look into this aspect as well.

Lastly, I want a clarification from the Minister. The Minister has said that every individual has a fundamental right to go abroad. I want to know how many applications, particularly of politicians, belonging to different groups have not been given passports. I want to know the number of applications pending as well as disposed of. In the Delhi passport office at Shastri Bhavan we find a long queue of people including women and children. There is lot of rush. You have to open more offices. I am not objecting to your levying of Rs. 50 as fee but what I am objecting to is that you want to recover from retrospective effect. This is the only strong point on which I urge the Minister not to recover the enhanced fee with retrospective effect.

In the passport offices there are good officers but there are officers who connive with the agents and collect lot of money. So, there is corruption.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI B. RACHAIAH: I am concluding. I am only trying to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to the prevalent of corruption in the passport offices. With these few remarks I qualitatively support this Bill.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का पूर्णतया समर्थन करता हूँ और मंत्री महोदय को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस विधेयक को सदन के सामने रखा और इसलिये भी कि पिछले 15 महीने में इन्होंने कुछ कदम उठाये हैं जिससे विदेश यात्रा के लिये जाना सरल हो गया है।

मझे याद है, पहले दिल्ली में किसी भी गजेटेड आफिसर के हस्ताक्षर कराने के लिये 500 रुपये लगते थे और अब वह कीमत गिरते-गिरते केवल 20 रुपये रह गई है जब से आपने पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों का यह अधिकार दिया है।

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रेड्डी (निजामाबाद) : यह बिल्कुल गलत है।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : हरेक व्यक्ति पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर के पास जा सकता है। मेरा कहना यह है कि आज कोई भी व्यक्ति किसी भी संसद-सदस्य के पास जाकर हस्ताक्षर करवा सकता है, कोई कठिनाई उसमें नहीं आती। पहले टाउड्स होते थे जिनके जरिये वे गजेटेड आफिसर्स से हस्ताक्षर करवाये जाते थे। जब तक वह न हो, प्रागे कार्यवाही नहीं चलती थी। अभी जैसे और चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, लेकिन पासपोर्ट की कीमत आहिस्ते-आहिस्ते गिर रही है। मेरा कहना यह है कि आज विदेश यात्रा केवल बड़े-बड़े इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स या धनाढ्य लोगों के लिये ही नहीं है, आज तो सर्वसाधारण आदमी, यहां तक कि घनपड़ भी हजारों की संख्या में विदेश यात्रा के लिये जाते हैं। जो लोग हस्ताक्षर भी नहीं कर सकते हैं, ऐसे लोग भी हमारे पास आते हैं, क्योंकि विदेशों में उनको नौकरी मिलती है, पढ़ाई के लिये जाते हैं, बिजनेस और दूसरे कामों के लिये जाते हैं।

अभी मंत्री जी ने बताया कि चांदी के लिये भी जाते हैं। आखिरी बात की जोख

जो इन्होंने बताया वह मुझे मालूम नहीं थी ।
तो इस तरह से भ्रमण-भ्रमण उद्देश्यों से लोग
बाहर जाते हैं ।

श्री सचिवराज कुन्दू : यहीं पर शादी हो
जाती है, पासपोर्ट होने से ऐसे लोग भी हैं
जिनकी यहीं शादी हो जाती है और बाघ में
जाते हैं, और ऐसे भी हैं कि आप पासपोर्ट
ले लीजिये, आपकी अच्छी बीबी मिल जायेगी ।

श्री कंबार लाल गुप्त : आप किस हैसियत
से बोल सकते हैं, इस मामले में आपकी अपनी
ही हालत खराब है । इसलिये मुझे यह बात
कहने में क्या फायदा ?

यह सर्वसाधारण की प्राबल्य है, जनता
सरकार को इसमें अधिक रधि लेनी चाहिये ।
मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि आपने भी और विदेश
मंत्री ने भी रीजनल पासपोर्ट आफिसर्स की
मीटिंग बुलाई और वहाँ पर कुछ हिदायतें
भी दीं, पालनीत भी की और प्रोसीचर का
सरल भी किया ।

आपने कहा कि जनवरी, 1978 में
आपकी मीटिंग हुई थी, तो इन 7 महीनों
में जो कुछ आपने कहा, क्या वह पूरा हो गया,
यह सवाल है ? आज भी मैं यह कह सकता हूँ
कि बाहर का रिश्त का काम तो बन्द हो
गया, लेकिन पासपोर्ट आफिस अभी भी डेम
आफ करण है, वहाँ रैकेटियर्स हैं, लोग
पैसा ठेकर पारुपोर्ट बनवाते हैं ।

आप यह कह सकते हैं कि मैंने आवेस
दिये हैं कि एक महीने में पासपोर्ट बने या
6 सप्ताह में बने । श्री बाजपेयी जी ने
2 महीने के लिये कहा था, आपने पहले 6
सप्ताह कहा और अब 35 दिन कहा है । मैं
ज्यादा तो कहना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन आपके
का कह सकता हूँ कि 35 दिन में ऐसे 10
परसैंट पासपोर्ट भी इश्यू नहीं होते ।

आज यह स्थिति है कि अफिकान
पासपोर्ट छः महीने, आठ महीने, दस महीने,
एक एक साल तक पड़े रहते हैं । सारे भारत-
वर्ष में अभी तक करीब चार लाख एफ्लिकेशन्स
पड़ी हुई हैं । मंत्री महोदय बतायें कि उनके
पास पुरानी से पुरानी एफ्लिकेशन्स कितनी हैं ।
शायद उनको ऐसी एफ्लिकेशन्स भी मिलेगी,
जो सालों से पड़ी हुई हैं । आज ही सुबह
मेरे पास दो तीन महिलायें आईं, जिनकी
एफ्लिकेशन छः महीने से पड़ी हुई है और उन
को अभी तक पासपोर्ट नहीं मिला है ।

हालत यह है कि कभी कह देते हैं कि
आप का क्रोटो हमसे गुम हो गया है, कभी
कहते हैं कि यह कमी है, कमी कहते हैं कि वह
कमी है । वे लोग पैसा ऐंजने के लिए जान-
बूझ कर ऐसा करते हैं । मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री
महोदय ऐसा सर्वे करावें कि आफिस में
पुरानी से पुरानी एफ्लिकेशन्स कितनी पड़ी
हुई हैं । श्री बाजपेयी ने कहा है कि
इस आफिस का इमेज बहुत पुष्ट है—मैं उन
को ब्योट नहीं करना चाहता हूँ ; समय
बहुत थोड़ा है—,लेकिन दुख के साथ कहना
पड़ता है कि उस इमेज में अभी कोई सुधार
नहीं हुआ है—बहुत बैसे का बैसा है । सरकार ने
अभी तक जो कदम उठाये हैं, उनसे कुछ फर्क
पड़ा है, लेकिन आफिस के लोगों की मनोवृत्ति
और काम करने का तरीका अभी तक नहीं
बदला है ।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि पासपोर्ट जारी करने
के बारे में एक डेडलाइन तय कर दी जाये ।
मंत्री महोदय ने एक महीने की बात कही है ।
एक महीने के बजाये डेढ़ महीना निर्दिष्ट कर
दिया जाये, लेकिन और डेढ़ महीने में पासपोर्ट
इस्यु न हो, तो जो अफसर उसके लिए
जिम्मेदार हो, उसको सजा दी जाये । अगर
एफ्लिकेशन में कोई कमी है, तो उस ब्यक्ति
को लिखा जाये कि वह उस कमी को पूरा
करे । अगर वह उसको पूरा नहीं करता है,

[श्री कंचर लाल गुप्ता]

तो यह उसकी जिम्मेदारी है। लेकिन अगर आफ्रिस की तरफ से किसी व्यक्ति को कुछ बताया न जाये, और फिर भी डेढ़ महीने के अन्दर पासपोर्ट जारी न हो, तो जिम्मेदार सरकारी अधिकारी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए।

डिप्लोमेटिक पासपोर्ट के बारे में अभी जो कहा गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। सरकार को पालियामेंट के मेम्बरों के साथ भेदभाव नहीं करना चाहिए। सरकार अंडर सेक्रेटरी और डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी आदि आफ्रिसल्ल के तो डिप्लोमेटिक पासपोर्ट देती है, लेकिन वह पालियामेंट के मेम्बरों को नहीं देती है। मंत्री महोदय यह भी तय करें कि पालियामेंट के हर एक मेम्बर को, वगैर किसी भेदभाव के, डिप्लोमेटिक पासपोर्ट दिया जायेगा।

इस वक्त श्री स्वामी यहां पर नहीं हैं। इमरजेंसी के दिनों में वह पासपोर्ट लेकर बाहर गये, अगर उन पर मुकदमा चलाया गया। क्या मंत्री महोदय ने यह एनक्वायरी की है कि उन पर मुकदमा क्यों चलाया गया? आज सरकार हर एक को पासपोर्ट दे रही है, यहां तक कि जिस व्यक्ति ने देश में तानाशाही कायम की, लाखों लोगों को जेल में डाला, जिसको मैं पिछले तीस साल में सब से बड़ा क्रिमिनल कहूँगा उस व्यक्ति को भी सरकार पासपोर्ट देने के लिए तैयार है—कुछ दिनों के लिए देने के लिए तैयार है। वह कहती है कि श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी को भी पासपोर्ट दिया जायेगा। लेकिन जिन्होंने श्री स्वामी के खिलाफ झूठा मुकदमा दर्ज किया, वह उन के खिलाफ एनक्वायरी नहीं करेगी। यह ठीक है कि सरकार ने रूल आफ ला को कायम किया है, लेकिन जिन्होंने पहले गड़बड़ की, उनके खिलाफ उसने क्या कार्यवाही की है?

अल्दी पासपोर्ट ईश्यू करने के लिए आप ने कहा कि रीजल पासपोर्ट आफ्रिस हरएक

स्टेट में खोलेंगे। लेकिन अभी तो आप के पास नौ आफ्रिसल्ल हैं। 6 महीने में केवल दो नये आफ्रिसल्ल आप ने खोले। बाकी स्टेट्स का क्या हुआ? आप का यह वायदा है कि हरएक स्टेट में एक-एक पासपोर्ट आफ्रिस खुलेगा। अगर इस स्पीड से आप ने खोला कि 6 महीने में दो, तीन-तीन महीने में एक एक तो सालों लग जाएंगे। मेरे पास आफ्रिस हैं जिन में मंत्री महोदय ने खुद यह कहा है कि कई स्टेट्स में एक एक लाख पासपोर्ट पेंडिंग पड़े हुए हैं। जैसा कि उन्होंने बताया है एनाकुलम में 43424 अप्लीकेशंस तीन महीने में आई है। इसी तरीके से 20 हजार और भी अप्लीकेशंस इस तरह की हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जहां पर ज्यादा भीड़ है वहां पर आप एक मियाद तय कीजिए कि दो महीने में या तीन महीने में पासपोर्ट आफ्रिस आप खोल देंगे।

श्री सवरेश्वर कुच्छू : नये साल में आप देखें कि क्या होता है।

श्री कंचर लाल गुप्ता : हर हाल नया होता है। इसी साल अगर हो जाय तो वह अच्छा होगा।

जैसा कि आप ने खुद ही कहा कि संख्या पासपोर्ट की बढ़ रही है, यह अच्छा लक्षण है इस का और उसके लिए सरकार ने भी कुछ सुविधाएं दी हैं। केवल पासपोर्ट में नहीं और भी अगर सुविधाएं दी हैं फारेन ट्रेवल के लिए लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस में और भी ज्यादा रिसेन्शन और सिम्पलीफिकेशन हो जिससे ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग बाहर जायें, देख कर आए सीख कर आए, एम्प्लायमेंट हो, कुछ एंजुकेशन हो। एक बीज आप यह बताइए कि कितने लोगों का पासपोर्ट जमता पार्टी ने इम्पाउंड किया? इसके अलावा आप ने पासपोर्ट ऐक्ट के तहत यहां पर तरजीम की प्रोसीजर कोस में, उसके तहत क्या आपने 15 महीने में किसी एक प्राइमी के खिलाफ

कोई कार्यवाही की है या वह सेवानिवृत्त बिलकुल ठेक है ? जो पासपोर्ट का आवेदन करता है उसके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही हुई है या वह सेवानिवृत्त केवल डेड लेटर है ? बिलकुल बेकार है, उसको किसी ने देखा ही नहीं, कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई ? धर्म सेवा का मामला भी है, वह कैसे चला गया ? उसके पास पासपोर्ट तो था लेकिन पासपोर्ट लेने के बाद कई बार आप इन्कम टैक्स सर्टिफिकेट भी मांगते हैं, वह इन्कम टैक्स सर्टिफिकेट आप ने मांगा या नहीं मांगा, इसके ऊपर भी प्रकाश डालिए और बताइए कि वह कैसे चला गया, किसकी जिम्मेदारी थी ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): He is your supporters. He is a supporter of your Government. That is why you allowed him to go.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Whether he is our supporter or your supporter, I know one thing. It is that the two sons of Indira Gandhi used to live with him in London and they took education when they were living at his residence and they were supported by him

(Interruptions)

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसलिए, धर्म सेवा के बारे में भी एन्वयरी हमें चाहिए । मैं श्री महोदय को बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जो बायदे उन्होंने किए हैं उनको वह पूरा करेंगे ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ ।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Bill. Even though I oppose the Bill, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry for the relaxations they have made in the issuing of passport.

A special consideration has been shown to Kerala where there is huge rush for passport. Definitely they deserve our congratulations for their expeditious action. The passport is a fundamental right and even the Supreme Court Judge, Mr. Justice Subba Rao has held in early 1967 that it is the fundamental right of every citizen to hold a passport. After that this Passport Act, 1967 came.

15.40 hrs.

[SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN in the Chair].

The judgement came in March 1967 and the Act was passed in June, 1967. This Bill which has been brought forward by the Janata Government has put some more restrictions on the issue of passport. You are making an amendment to increase the charges instead of making some basic amendments to this Act. This is my objection. Even you agree with the Supreme Court judgment. Even in the latest case when some people moved the court, a Division Bench upheld the old ruling of the Supreme Court that passport is a fundamental right of every citizen. Even then, the Minister has failed to bring forward a new Act. You are still keeping the old Act of 1967 which had been brought before the House to defeat the purpose of the Supreme Court judgment.

The number of applications for passports has increased from 3.5 lakhs to 1 million in 1978, which shows people are more in need of passport. It means your income, has increased. When your income has increased, why do you want to charge more? Last year, the minister announced with good intentions that they may issue about 8 lakhs passport every year. Please remember that in the United States, with a population of about 23 crores, they are issuing 3 million passports a year. This shows their efficiency. Of course, I know you visited the passport offices in Kerala and told the employees there to issue passports quickly. Yet, 2 lakhs applications are pending in

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

Cochin office. You must have additional staff on temporary basis to clear off the arrears. Instead of the arrears getting cleared, they are accumulating. You opened an office in Calicut with all good intentions. But it has not solved the problem of arrears. So, I plead with the minister to please do something to clear off the arrears pending in Cochin as well as Calicut.

What is the purpose of a passport? It is for going abroad. But here is the Emigration Act, 1922, passed before I was born. It was enacted by the British when India was a colony. When you are thinking of relaxing the rules, why can't you apply your mind to change this Act? Clause 11 of this Act says:

"Where the Central Government has reason to believe that in any country to which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work is lawful, plague or any other epidemic disease dangerous to human life has broken out, and that emigrants if allowed to emigrate to that country would be exposed to serious risk to life on arrival there, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette"—I would like to underline that—"declare that emigration to that country for the purpose of unskilled work shall cease to be lawful."

So, it has to be done by notification in the official gazette and you have to place all such orders before Parliament. But you made some rules making the emigration rules very strict and you did not allow many people passing in Bombay and Cochin to go to Muscat and some other countries. It is a violation of this law. You never made any notification. You only sent out a government circular against the law. You are expected to place the notification on the Table of the House. Without doing it, you issued a circular saying, "we hereby stop emigration to Muscat and some other Gulf countries." I know personally that many poor people from my constituency and

other places also went to the airport with the ticket. But they were told, "You pay Rs. 2000 and I will do it". The LDCs and others working there made millions of rupees by just affixing a seal!

And they completely harass the people and sometimes the people are thrown out of the plane, they are checked out and thrown out. You could have made some arrangement before issuing a ticket. So, without placing the Notification before this House according to the Immigration Act, 1922, which is amended later, you made some kind of rules and made the poor people come all the way—you know the story, I don't want to repeat it—selling all their properties and everything and paying some money and when they come with a ticket, they are thrown out of the airport and they are wandering in the Bombay streets. Who made the money? Many of the people in the Passport office.

I went to the Passport office one day. I had seen the people working and I appreciate that people are working up to 8 o'clock. I have no complaints against them. There are some good people in the office, but there are many who are corrupt. Many of them are corrupt and they are delaying things like anything. And if you go there, Madam Chairman, you can see that from early morning till night people are waiting there to get into the queue in the Bombay passport office because you imposed many restrictions by way of immigration laws and made the people in the Passport office more powerful. I would appeal to you that whenever you make some change, you prepare a notification and place it before the House, but do not impose unnecessary and unwarranted restrictions which only harm the interests of the Indian people abroad. In this connection, I may tell you that you have made rules for restricting the people from going abroad whether they are skilled or unskilled. There are

many bogus agencies. People have been cheated. I agree. But why can't you set up one agency? The present procedure is that you have first to go to the Labour Ministry and then your Ministry and then go to the Home Ministry. This is hell of a problem. Why can't you coordinate everything and make it one Ministry to deal with it? Then, the authorised legal agents can recruit people and they can be sent. Because of different rules and different interpretations and different Ministries, things are becoming more complicated. So, I appeal to you to look into this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ravi, I would request you to try to conclude.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, I am speaking on the relevant points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not saying you are irrelevant. I say this because of the limited time allotted to the Bill and the number of speakers including those from our Party. You are using up your Party's time. If you are using up your Party's time, I have no objection.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You can extend the time for discussion on this Bill, if necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not mean that your Party gets more time. I request you to be brief. I know it is difficult, but kindly be brief.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: In a few minutes I will finish.

So, I appeal to the hon. Minister to change the Immigration Act by making the necessary amendment.

There are many Passports of Indian which are impounded during emergencies in foreign countries. Sometimes these Passports are impounded due to some official's personal vengeance also. I would appeal to the Minister to please examine how many passports of the peo-

ple Indians living in foreign countries are impounded. I can tell you the specific cases in which it has happened in Kuwait and Gulf countries. The passports of many people who have gone from Kerala are impounded because of the personal vengeance of some officials in Kuwait.

Madam, there is a point made by Mr. Rachaiah. I have no complaint about that. It is a very good opportunity to meet the people, we appreciate it. You will also agree that it is a good opportunity for M.Ps. to meet the people. But there is no provision in the I.P.C. or Cr.P.C. to impound a Passport for a criminal act. If there is no such provision in the IPC or Cr. P.C. to impound a passport, what is the need to say whether so and so is involved in any criminal case? After getting the passport he can only communicate. There is no provision to impound his passport. Then why do you put that clause in this? Please look into this also.

The last point I make is, so far as the Gulf countries are concerned, there are millions and millions of Indian people working in the Gulf countries, you are not taking any serious view of posting important diplomats in those countries. There are complaints that our Ambassadors are sleeping and they are not taking any interest. Even I have got one specific complaint against one Ambassador about whom I have written to the Minister. There are many complaints against the Ambassadors and I would appeal to the hon. Minister to look at the importance of the Gulf countries where millions and millions of our people are working, especially the people from the southern part of the country and they can only be strengthened by putting there people who speak Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. I appeal to you to see that the people who work in those embassies know some South Indian languages. Secondly, senior and important diplomats should be

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

appointed there, to protect the interests of our people who are employed in those countries.

I cannot support this bill, in view of the reasons I have given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the attention of the Members to the fact that 2 hours have been allotted to this Bill; and out of the 2 hours allotted, 1 hour has already been consumed. At the risk of being told by people who talk a lot, that I talk a lot, I draw your attention to this. Now Shri Durga Chand.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: May I move a Motion that the time be extended upto 6 o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can move it at the appropriate time.

श्री दुर्गा चन्द (कांगड़ा) : मेडम चैयरमैन साहिबा, इस पासपोर्ट बिल का हम सब लोग स्वागत कर रहे हैं और करना चाहिए ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is different, because many have opposed it.

श्री दुर्गा चन्द : इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में मैं कुछ बातें कहना चाहना हूँ । इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि जब से हमारी पार्टी सत्ता में आयी है तब से विदेश विभाग ने पासपोर्ट के बारे में बहुत अहम कदम उठाये हैं जिससे कि बाहर जाने वालों को बाहर जाने में जो मुश्किलता आती थी वे कम हुई है । इसलिए इस पासपोर्ट अमेंडमेंट बिल से काफी लोगों को राहत मिलगी ।

हमने पासपोर्ट की फीस पचास रुपये कर दी है । इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि बहुत सी चीजों के खर्चें बढ़ गये हैं और उसी की वजह से सरकार को यह फीस बढ़ानी पड़ी है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेम्बर आफ पार्लियामेंट को जो तस्वीक पासपोर्ट के लिए करनी पड़ती है, उससे उनका

पोस्टेज का खर्चा बढ़ गया है । हमारे पास बेरिफिकेशन के लिए दिल्ली से, चण्डीगढ़ से लेटर आ जाते हैं और हमें उन पर पोस्टेज का खर्च करना पड़ता है । यह ठीक है कि इसमें हमें लोगों से मिलने का मौका मिलता है लेकिन हमें इस खर्च का भार भी वहन करना पड़ता है । आपने जो इस बिल के द्वारा पासपोर्ट की फीस बढ़ायी है और पचास रुपये कर दी है, वह फीस तो अभी भी, यानी इस बिल के पास होने से पहले से ही चार्ज हो रही है । इस को आप कैसे रैगुलाराइज करेंगे ? इस सम्बन्ध में इस बिल में क्लॉज आनी चाहिए थी । (व्यवधान)

एक बड़ी ख़ुशी की बात यह है कि आपने पासपोर्ट आफिसिज की संख्या बढ़ा दी है । आपने अपनी पार्लिसी में जो यह कहा है कि हम हरक स्टेट में रीजनल पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलेंगे मैंने हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए श्री झटल बिहारी वाजपेयी को एक पत्र लिखा था कि हिमाचल प्रदेश एक पिछड़ा राज्य है, वहां लोग बेकार हैं, वहां के लोगों को भी इसकी सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए । हिमाचल प्रदेश के लोग या तो पासपोर्ट के लिए चण्डीगढ़ जाते हैं या फिर दिल्ली आते हैं । मेरे पत्र का पहले तो उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि वह कंस एक्टिवली कंसीडर किया जा रहा है । बाद में यह जवाब दिया कि किसी भी पासपोर्ट आफिस को खोलने के लिए तीन हजार एप्लीकेशन होनी चाहिए । हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए उन्होंने कहा कि वहां से चार हजार एप्लीकेशन आयी हैं । लेकिन मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने यह कैसे असर्टन किया कि हिमाचल से चार हजार एप्लीकेशन आयी हैं । वहां के लोग अपना एड्रेस दिल्ली का भी लिख देते हैं और चण्डीगढ़ का भी एड्रेस लिख देते हैं । इस तरह से उनकी संख्या कम हो जाती है । इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से अपील करूंगा कि जहां आप अन्य राज्यों में दो रीजनल आफिसिज खोल रहे हैं या सब रीजनल आफिसिज खोल

रहे हैं, वहां हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी आपकी एक पासपोर्ट ऑफिस खोलना चाहिए। वहां इसकी बड़ी आवश्यकता है।

मैं कहूंगा कि इस कानून को लाकर संघी महोदय ने बहुत सी एनोमलीज को दूर करने की कोशिश की है। इसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। उन्होंने जो फीमला किया है कि हर स्टेट में सब-निजल पासपोर्ट ऑफिस खोला जाए उस पर जल्दी ध्यान देना चाहिये, उस पर जल्दी एकशन होना चाहिये, यही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।

श्री भगत राम (फिल्लौर) : मैं इस बिल का विरोध करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। इस बिल का उद्देश्य यह है कि पासपोर्ट एन्विकेशन की फीम 25 रुपये में बढ़ा कर 50 रुपये कर दी जाए। 1961 से 1971 तक यह 15 रुपये थी और नव पासपोर्ट तीन साल के लिए वैलिड होता था। 1971 में यह पंद्रह में बढ़ कर पच्चीस हुई और पासपोर्ट पांच साल के लिए वैलिड होता था। इस हिमाय से देखा जाए तो अब पचास रुपये जो फीम आप कर रहे हैं इसको देखते हुए पासपोर्ट दम साल के लिए वैलिड होना चाहिये। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। मिनिस्टर साहब का हिसाब कमजोर नहीं है, यह मैं जानता हूँ। उन्होंने यह सब जानबूझ कर किया है। उनको सब पता है। उन्होंने बताया है कि 1976 में चार लाख पासपोर्ट इशू किए गए। 1977 में 9 लाख किए गए। जून 78 तक 7 लाख इनकी ताबाद हो गई। इस साल के अन्त तक 18 लाख पासपोर्ट इशू होने की सम्भावना भी उन्होंने जाहिर की है। इसका सीधा मतलब यह होता है कि चार गुना से ज्यादा इनकी ताबाद हो गई है। इसका साफ मतलब यह निकलता है कि इनकम भी चार गुना से अधिक आपकी बढ़ गई है। इसलिए इसको कहने में कोई लाजिक नहीं है कि पासपोर्ट बनाने में जो खर्चा है वह बढ़ गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि संघी

महोदय हमें इसका लाजिक समझाएं और बताएं कि कैसे खर्चा बढ़ गया है।

धर खर्चा बढ़ा है तो इसलिए बढ़ा है कि पासपोर्ट दफ्तरों में बड़ी इनएफिगेंसी है। पासपोर्ट एन्विकेशन को वे जल्दी नहीं निपटाते हैं। इसकी बहुत सी मिसालें हमारे पास हैं। मेरी कंस्टिट्यूंसी से सब से ज्यादा लोग बाहर गए हुए हैं और अब भी जा रहे हैं। कोई साहब आते हैं तो बताते हैं कि 8-9 महीने और साल के बाह पासपोर्ट नहीं मिला है। कई तरह की शिकायतें हमारे पास रोज आती हैं। कभी आवेजकेशन हो जाता है कि जो फोटो हैं वह गुम हो गई हैं, कभी हो जाता है कि फीस यहां पर लोस्ट नहीं हो रही है, कभी यह लिखकर भेज दिया जाता है कि एफिडविट नहीं मिल रहा है, कभी जांच के लिए भेज दिया जाता है, कभी कह दिया जाता है कि जो एम पी है जिस में दस्तावेज लिए हैं उनमें कनफर्मेशन नहीं भेजा है। तरह तरह के बहाने बना कर उन लोगों के फीसों को लटकाए रखा जाता है। अठ्ठाबार को शिकायतें भी आती रहती हैं। जब देरी होनी है तो अठ्ठाबार को जन्म मिलता है। कुछ दफ्तर वालों की एजेंटों के साथ सांठांड रहती है, गाल्लुकात रहते हैं। कई इन तरह के उदाहरण हैं कि जहां एजेंटों को पैसा दे दिया तो उन्होंने पैसा आगे दिया और पासपोर्ट जल्दी लोगों को मिल गया। पासपोर्ट दफ्तरों की कार्य कुशलता को बढ़ा दिया जाए तो मेरा यह ख्याल है कि जो फीस बढ़ाई जा रही है इनको बढ़ाने की जरूरत नहीं रह जाएगी बल्कि इससे भी कम फीस ली जा सकती है।

सब जानते हैं कि हमारे देश से दो परसेंट से भी कम लोग विदेशों में सैर सगटे के लिए जाते हैं। ज्यादातर अग्रामे लोग वही जाते पर मजबूर होते हैं जो कि हमारे देश में काम नहीं मिलता है। वही काम की तलाश में बाहर जाते हैं। मिश्री सरकार तीस

साल में लोगों को काम नहीं दे सकी। यह जो नई सरकार है यह भी उसके पद चिन्हों पर चल रही है, जामीरदारी-पूजीवादी नीति पर चल रही है। यह भी लोगों को काम नहीं दे सकी है। इस वास्ते लोग बाहर काम ढूँढने के लिए जाने पर मजबूर हो रहे हैं। ये जो बाहर जाने वाले अभागे लोग हैं इनकी बड़ी लूट होती है। पासपोर्ट एजेंट और ट्रेविल एजेंट एंटी सोशल काम करते हैं। यहाँ तक कि जिनको मान्यता दी हुई है सरकार ने उनके साथ उनका गठबन्धन है और एंटी सोशल काम कर रहे हैं और लोगों से 7,000 रु० से लेकर 10,000 रु० तक ठगते हैं और ऐसे अभागे लोग में से भी 75 परसेंट लोग आगे जा नहीं पाते हैं, वह रास्ते में ही रह जाते हैं। कई देशों में तो यह एजेंट लोग गैर-कानूनी दाखिला करा देते हैं जिससे वह बेचारे पकड़े जाते हैं। हजारों भारतीयों को प्रतिवर्ष दूसरे देशों की जेलों में जाना पड़ता है और हजारों लोग विदेशों में एजेंटों से मिल कर दूसरे देशों में राजनीतिक शरण ले रहे हैं। जैसी की यू० एन० आई० की खबर है पश्चिम जर्मनी में पिछले साल हैमबर्ग में 1200 और बर्लिन में 800 लोगों ने राजनीतिक शरण ली, और इसी साल मई में 500 लोगों ने शरण ली है। इस तरह से यह एजेंट बाहर हमारे देश की बवनामी करा रहे हैं, यह सब मंत्री महोदय को देखना चाहिये। अभी भी हमारे सैकड़ों लोग विदेशों में जेलों में हैं और मैंने विदेश मंत्रालय को एक चिट्ठी लिखी थी कि हमारी कांस्टीट्यूटेंसी क परमजीत वगैरह 22 व्यक्ति पाकिस्तान की जेलों में हैं। हर साल हमारे लोग बाहर से जेल भुगतकर आ जाते हैं और ठगे जाते हैं।

16 hrs.

मंत्री जी ने पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने की बात कही है, इसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ, और खास कर पंजाब में जहाँ पासपोर्ट क लिये बड़ी भीड़ है वहाँ पर एक और सब-रीजनल

पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने की बात है जो कि अच्छी बात है। लेकिन मैं एक सुझाव जरूर देना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब में जो दूसरा सब-घार० पी० भी० खोला जा रहा है वह वहाँ पर ठीक रहेगा यह मैं बताना चाहता हूँ। मैं इलाकाबाद के आधार पर नहीं बल्कि तथ्यों के आधार पर कह रहा हूँ। फरवरी 1977 से 30 जून 77 तक 61,265 में से 56,260 पासपोर्ट केवल पंजाब में इशू किये गये। और दोआबा में होशियारपुर, जलन्धर तथा कपूरथला जिले आते हैं इन जिलों में 37,893 पासपोर्ट जारी किये गये और अमृतसर और गुरदासपुर जिलों को अग्रर मिला लिया जाय तो 43,321 पासपोर्ट बन जाते हैं। इसलिये मैं सजेस्ट करूँगा कि जलन्धर में पासपोर्ट आफिस खोला जाय।

अन्त में कहूँगा कि दफतरों की इनफैफिशियेंसी को खत्म किया जाय और कम से कम 1 महीने में पासपोर्ट दिया जाय जो कि अनिश्चित काल के लिये हो क्योंकि पासपोर्ट रिन्यू कराने से भी काम बढ़ता है। अग्रर अनिश्चितकाल के लिये पासपोर्ट दिया जायगा तो ऐंकीशियेंसी आयेगी, और ट्रेविल एजेंटों के समाज विरोधी काम को समाप्त किया जाय और जिन लोगों को ट्रेविल एजेंटों ने ठगा है उनका पैसा वापस कराया जाय।...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly conclude now because this is beyond the ambit of the Bill? Please conclude now.

श्री जगत राम : लोगों को बाहर भेजने के लिये एक स्पेशल ऐम्प्लायमेंट एक्सचेंज की स्थापना की जाय जिसके माफ़त रेक्यूमेंट कर के लोगों को बाहर भेजा जाय। इसी तरह से विदेशों की जेलों में जो हमारे लोग बन्द हैं उनको छुड़ाया जाय, और विदेशों में काम कर रहे जो भारतीय हैं उनकी सविस् कंटीनान्स, रिहायश, वेतन आदि को देनूटेड किया जाय।.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you are repeating yourself. So, I am calling the next speaker. Mr. Anant Dave. There is so much of repetition. I request Members to cooperate.

श्री अनन्त दवे (कच्छ) : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय जो पासपोर्ट प्रमेंडमेंट बिल लाये हैं, उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ, लेकिन हम सम्बन्ध में 3, 4 बातें मुझे बतानी हैं।

मंत्री महोदय ने जो रीजन्स बतायें हैं कि हम देश में ज्यादा प्राफिस खोलने जा रहे हैं, हमारा खर्चा बढ़ गया है इसलिये हम फीस बढ़ा रहे हैं, मैं मंत्री महोदय से सीधा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिन जिन प्रदेशों में आप प्राफिस खोलेंगे, तो आपका उन सब-प्राफिसिक में कितना खर्चा आयेंगा ? जो 7 लाख पासपोर्ट आपने अभी तक बनवाये और वर्ष के अन्त तक 18 लाख पासपोर्ट बनवाने जा रहे हैं, तो इससे आपको कितनी इनकम होगी ? जो उसका अनुपात हो, उस के मुताबिक आपको फीस बढ़ानी चाहिये। यह जो 25 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 50 रुपये फीस हो रही है यह ज्यादा है। जो लोग जा रहे हैं, उनमें मेरी कांस्टीट्यून्सी के लोग भी हैं जो कि ग्लफ के लोग हैं, गरीब हैं, उनके पास पैसा नहीं है। जब पास पोर्ट बनवाते हैं तो सबसे पहले पैसे का सवाल आता है। वही बात मंत्री जी को भी सोचनी चाहिये।

वहाँ जो एजेन्ट काम कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने तो आज से ही अपनी फीस बढ़ा दी है। उन्होंने सोचा कि बिल आ रहा है, गवर्नमेंट फीस 25 रुपये से 50 रुपये कर रही है तो उनकी भी फीस बढ़ गई। पहले 50 रुपये से वह बनवाते थे अब 200 रुपये लेते हैं और अगर कोई प्रजेन्ट पासपोर्ट बनवाये तो 250 रुपये भी लेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point has already been spoken in detail by

others. I would request you to be brief.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): He is not as competent as you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of competence, it is a question of cooperation. Now that you have woken up, you can understand that.

श्री अनन्त दवे : तो जो कार्यवाही एजेन्ट चला रहे हैं, सरकार को उसे भी रोकना चाहिये। जो 50 रुपये फीस की जा रही हैं, मैं यह इसलिये दोहरा रहा हूँ कि जो टूरिस्ट जाते हैं, उनके पास काफी पैसा होता है, उनसे ली जानी चाहिये, लेकिन जो मजदूर जाते हैं, काम करने के निचे गल्फ से जाते हैं उनके पास काफी पैसा नहीं होता, उनसे कम लेना चाहिये। टूरिस्ट तो 25, 30 और 50 हजार रुपये तक वहाँ खर्च करते हैं लेकिन जो पहली दफा जाते हैं उनसे कम लेना चाहिये और जो वापिस आकर फिर पासपोर्ट रिन्यू करवाने जायें उनसे ज्यादा फीस लेनी चाहिये। लेकिन अभी जो 25 से बढ़ाकर 50 रुपये की है, यह बिल्कुल ठीक नहीं है।

भ्राज देश में जो फारेन एक्सचेंज बढ़ रहा है वह इन गरीब लोगों के कारण ही बढ़ रहा है। हर रोज, 4, 5 हजार करोड़ फारेन एक्सचेंज देश में आ रहा है। मेरा कहना यह है कि जिन इतकों में से ज्यादा लोग गये हैं, उनका जिये ज्यादा मात्रा में डेवलपमेंट बक्स करने चाहिये, ऐसा भी सुझाव है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं जो एजेन्ट्स की बात कही, उस पर मंत्री महोदय विचार कर के कोई तपस या कार्यवाही करेंगे, ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूँ।

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Passport Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no other alternative; your name was there.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I know Mr. Kundu and Mr. Vajpayee are very good diplomats in this matter and, therefore, I congratulate them for their diplomacy. I congratulate these two ministers because they are very good in diplomacy, because they are able to win over many friends and because they are trying to avoid enemies as far as possible. Similarly, they wanted to be very diplomatic with the people of this country also.

I remember how Mr. Vajpayee came and made a statement here, of course, with the help of Mr. Kundu, that the issue of passport will be made more easier. In the process, they wanted to be very diplomatic. When they were trying to be diplomatic, they found difficult in managing the affairs. That is the reason why they have increased the amount from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. I appreciate that. I do not think that any person who is claiming a Passport has any grouse against that. Previously, everyone knows and I have had experience also that some of the passport officers—I do not say officers—some of the agents in connivance with the officers used to get Rs. 5000 for an endorsement for Saudi Arabia. That has gone down to a very great extent. It has come down to Rs. 250 or Rs. 300.

In this connection, I say, they have done a good job. But while doing so, they have concentrated only on the simple aspect of money. They have not considered other aspects of the difficulties, as correctly pointed out by my hon friend, Mr Vayalar Ravi. They could have taken some more time, burnt the mid-night oil, and spent the time in a useful manner and come out with a comprehensive Bill as far as the passport is concerned taking into consideration all the anti-taking laws of 1922, 1939 and all that.

Even now, your home work is not good. I can point out only certain mistakes that I can point out to you. You say here that Madras office is in-charge of two places, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. You forget about Pondicherry. That is also included in that. You have not done the home work properly. Pondicherry is also included in the Madras office. Why I refer to this is that you have not taken the trouble of going into the details upto the last point. I do not accuse you. It is a question of going into the details. I point it out to every Ministry when they come up with their Bills before the House. You must take proper care to see all the details. It cannot be taken for granted that Pondicherry is also included in that. I need not mention about it. You must know it.

For example, take a man who is in Mahi or a man who is in Yaman. He has to come down 750 miles to present an application for passport. The same thing is with a man in Mahi who has to come to Ernakulam because Pondicherry is included in the Madras office. So, I request the hon. Minister, as a member from that area, to have a small office at Pondicherry also to cater to the needs of the people there. Many people go to foreign countries, specially to France and other countries and our ties are much better with them than with many other people outside. I would request you to consider that.

Then, in the process of being very diplomatic, you are caught in the trouble, as many members pointed out. For example, you said that Members of Parliament can sign the passport to make it easier and to get out of the cultches of those bureaucrats who are very often condemned—I will not condemn them like that. Now, before you sign it, a caution or a warning is given saying that it is a very important document—you must take note of it—and that when you sign for a particular person, as per the legal terminology, you must

see that a particular person is economically sound and is capable of managing himself not only here but outside also and when he comes back also. You have also to certify about his character also. We politicians can certify anybody for that. That is no problem. But it is a question of certifying whether a person is economically sound. Is it possible for a Member of Parliament to know about 6-7 lakhs of people, in my constituency? Some of the members representing 10 lakhs of people. Is it practicable and possible to assess all the 10 lakhs of people and certify like that? It is not possible. We simply sign it and leave it at that. What will be the consequences later on? It was not so with those officers when they signed it earlier. I will not accuse the officers as some of the members said that they were in the habit of receiving Rs. 5000/- or whatever it. I have no knowledge about it. Some intermediaries or agents could have done that as they are doing now.

I have no personal experience about it. Personally speaking, I have not signed even 20 passports after you permitted to sign it because I strictly follow all the rules and regulations—they have to give me an extra copy; they have to give me a photograph and I number it. In this connection, I would like to bring to your notice that some officers either in Ernadulam or in Bombay ask some of the members to confirm by writing a letter that he has signed a particular passport.

It is an insult to a Member of Parliament. We are signing it and putting a stamp and all that. I do not know why they are asking for my confirmation letter. So far, I have not given it. Practically, 90 Members of Parliament who have no knowledge about these passport rules, concessions and other considerations that you have given, you have not taken note of these things. I just signed it. I told the Passport Officer about it. He is a nice man and lives in Madras

His name is Mr. Das. He is doing a lot of good work. I told him over the phone that this was not the practice with me, because he was not going to believe in my signatures. I told him that since he was not going to believe in my signatures how was he going to take note of my letter head and signatures. It is a funny thing. So the idea is to elevate the trouble that people are facing in this connection. While doing so, you have created a problem. I think Mr. Kundu sahib will take note of this suggestion.

People are applying in serial order. Some people come with the help of agents and other influential people. Sometimes Members of Parliament are also there. Then the Ministers also telephone us saying please issue this passport. He wants priority over others. So, there is a backlog in every office. The people who had applied day before yesterday take priority over those people who had already applied three months back.

I can understand that there may be some urgency. I would like to send my sister or somebody who has married in Singapore earlier or some such thing. You must also give preference. I do not say everybody is equal before these things. I think you must have two systems of passport in the country. You put certain passport in the urgent category and for that you collect some more money; and for that you must use also your discretion. If a person has to join his duty before 30 days, unless a passport is made available to him within 15 days, he cannot go and join his duty. Many people have developed a fashion to have a passport. I will come to that later on, because I think every citizen in this country should possess a passport. It will be a good identification mark also for you for future verification. We can also wave time during elections and on many such occasions. And naturally we will also make good money because if you multiply 60 crores into 50, automatically you will get a good figure. You have made a very good

[Shri A. Bala Pajanor]
figure. Just now I was calculating it. When hon. Member from Bhopal issues 10 lakh passports per year—I am not going into a small number of nine lakhs or odd—and if he multiplies into 50, he gets five crores; and if it of five years, it is 25 crores. Before the Janata Government gives it to some other government, I wish to come back again. So, I say, about this kind of calculations, you must be careful also.

Then you must make some distinction between passports—ordinary passport and other passports. For ordinary passports, many people are applying. You make it 25 or 30. As far as urgent passports are concerned, you make it 60 or 100. If I want to join my family or if I have a friend in some foreign country or if I have got diplomatic assignment, I can pay Rs. 100 and get out of this. Do not make everything equal because that will serve the purpose of your making rules and other things in a very easy form. That is one of the methods I wanted to consider also.

Secondly, many people are going out, labourers are going out. You must allow sympathetic consideration for these people. These are the people who have been looted; and these are the people who have been cheated in many manners by the agents; these are the people who are given very bad treatment in the passport office. Mr. Chairman, you may know it very well that in many of the offices because these people are all illiterate or poor collies or workers who go out to Saudia Arabian countries and many other gulf countries to work there and earn money,—they are given a very bad treatment. You must remember that these people are making remittances to this country when they are working abroad. If a person is getting Rs. 2000 per month as a Carpenter in Abu Dhabi or in a gulf country, he is sending practically Rs. 2000 to this country to make some saving and live for a better future later on. But these people are not given good treatment. Whereas

persons like doctors and others, when they go abroad, they buy cars and have big buildings and enjoy like anything. They are given a proper and better treatment. The Janata Government should not have such kind of partiality. So, you must see that these people are also given passports in a very easy fashion and they must get priority over others.

I do not want to name the agents or persons in our side. There is one person who sent 200 people abroad last time. I am told, this person is collecting Rs. 2000 from these people. That is what Mr. Ravi has also said. They sell away their property; they sell away everything; even their clothes they sell away and save Rs. 2000 and get into the clutches of these people and they are treated like slaves. But they come back with good money.

The other day, the Minister of Finance was speaking that our foreign exchanges remittances have gone up. By whom? So, it is not a one man's job; it is a coordinated thing. It is not only a question of foreign exchange but other things also. You try to help them in getting this passport in an easy fashion for which your office people can give you a better solution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to help the House by concluding as early as possible.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I do understand your position. But please allow me to make some contribution which will help the Ministry and the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not standing in your way. You are a member of the Business Advisory Committee that has allotted the time for this Bill. Therefore, I expect more cooperation from you than from others.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I am trying my best. It is not a question of cooperation; it is a question of helping our people outside for which we are here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude as early as possible. Otherwise, I will have to call the next speaker.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I request the hon. Minister to consider what I have said.

Here, he has been dealing, throughout, with the question of money only. Of course, I welcome this measure because something is better than nothing. It is good he has come forward with this. But I hope that, during his tenure of office, he will come forward with a comprehensive Bill so that things will be better for the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Yes, I am concluding. Mr. Kavar Lal Gupta was saying about the position of Passport officers....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have pulled him up already.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR:.... in various places. But I do not say that. My submission is this. I hope the Minister will take note of it. I want to congratulate and praise those officers who are doing this job. It has become a very bad practice with us to condemn always the bureaucrats. By this what happens is that, ultimately, even the people who are doing good work get discouraged, get frustrated and do not do their job properly. Therefore, let us praise these officers. These officers are working very well. I want to bring to your notice that the offices are understaffed, and those places are very bad. You must find out good accommodation for them and also increase employment there. You are getting Rs. 5 crores. You should make a good plan. Let this income not be a *quid pro quo* as you have said in public finance. You are already maintaining the office. This extra amount of Rs. 5 crores must be utilised for employing more people. You can say that

the Janata Government is giving more employment. Therefore, employ more staff. Make a two tier system

MR CHAIRMAN: Please conclude: I will be calling the next speaker:

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I hope the Minister will take note of all the suggestions that I have made. I wanted to suggest some more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can send them in writing.

Mr. Nirmal Chandra Jain.

श्री निर्मल चन्द्र जैन (सिवनी) : सभापति महोदया, पासपोर्ट की फीस 50 रुपये की जा रही है, मैं समझता हूँ—सदन इस को जरूर स्वीकार कर लेगा। लेकिन इस के लिये जो दो कारण दिये गये हैं—मैं विशेष रूप से उन का विरोध करना चाहता हूँ। इस में कहा गया है कि 50 रुपये इस लिये किये जा रहे हैं ताकि इस के कारण अच्छी सेवा मिल सकेगी। क्या इस के बिना अच्छी सेवा नहीं मिल सकती थी? दूसरी बात यह कही गई है कि 50 रुपये मिलेंगे तो अधिक क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट आफिसिज खोले जायेंगे—ये क्या कारण है? हम को यह आश्वासन तो बहुत पहले दिया गया था कि अधिक पासपोर्ट कार्यालय खोले जाने वाले हैं, इस का फीस से क्या सम्बन्ध है।

मध्य प्रदेश बहुत पहले से यह मांग करता रहा है कि वहाँ भी पास पोर्ट आफिस खोला जाय। मेरा ख्याल है कि 6 महीने से ज्यादा हो चुके हैं, बल्कि साल भर होने को आ रहा है—जब से यह मांग चल रही है। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि प्राय पचास रुपये की राशि बसूल करने तक न ठहरे, बल्कि फौरन वहाँ पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलें। मैं यह सुझाव भी देना चाहता हूँ कि यह आफिस जबलपुर में खोला जाय, क्योंकि जबलपुर ऐसा स्थल है जो मध्य प्रदेश के भी केन्द्र में स्थित है और इस देश के भी केन्द्र में स्थित है।

(श्री निर्मल चन्द्र जैन)

दूसरी बात—इस विषयक में "नामित प्रदेश" नेम्ड-स्ट्रीज का जिक्र किया गया है। ये नामित प्रदेश नियम के द्वारा तय होंगे, जिस में विवेक को बहुत स्थान मिल जाता है, अफरा-तफरी करने की गुंजाइश रह जाती है। "नामित प्रदेश" शब्द एकट में नहीं था, इस को भ्रम जोड़ा जा रहा है, मैं चाहता हूँ इस शब्द को हटा दिया जाय।

तीसरी बात—मैं श्री बालापञ्जोर जी की इस बात का समर्थन करता हूँ कि कन्फर्मेशन के जो पत्र हमें भेजे जाते हैं, वे न भेजे जाय। मैं उन सारी बातों को दोहराना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन जब मैं उस का समर्थन करता हूँ, तो स्वाभाविक है कि उस का वजन बढ़ जाता है। कृपा कर आप ऐसा आदेश दे दें कि कन्फर्मेशन के पत्र हमारे पास न आयें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt you, I think that confirmation is asked for because, very often, in the passport forms the signatures are forged.

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN: There is a seal also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even if there is a seal, such malpractices are there.

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN: Then one thing can be done. Samples of our signatures may be kept there because, what is the guarantee that even in the confirmation letter they will be deemed to be genuine signatures? So, this may be considered by the Minister.

चौथी चीज जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह बहुत गम्भीर है और वह यह है कि गल्फ कन्स्ट्रीज में जो लोग जाते हैं, खाड़ी के देशों में जो लोग जाते हैं, उन के मामले में बहुत गड़बड़ी हो रही है। पहले तो मैंने इसके बारे में बताया है। मैं 4 जून के टाइम्स आफ इन्डिया (ब्रम्बई) में जो एक समाचार निकला है, उस को पढ़ कर आप को सुनाना चाहता हूँ और उस के बाद अपना भाषण समाप्त कर दूँगा।

"A simple Bombay woman working as a nanny in one of the Gulf countries got the better of the emigration officers who off-loaded her from a flight at Santa Cruze airport recently.

The woman was returning to the Gulf after a brief holiday here. She had the necessary papers to prove this. But officers from the office of the protector of emigrants would not allow her to resume her job, for reasons best known to them.

There has been several reports of a financial racket at the airport involving these officers. Gulf-bound passengers have been prevented from leaving unless a "consideration" which varies from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,400/- is paid to them through certain people operating in the airport premises.

On some days, it is reported, the emigration authorities lie low and leave the field free for the benefit of the embarkation police. The latter it is alleged, refuse to stamp papers permitting passengers to board a plane until they are also paid a "consideration."

The wily emigration authorities tried the same game with the nanny. Little did they know that she was working for a high European embassy official. The woman simply went to a telephone and called her employer's wife to tell her why she was unable to resume work on time. The embassy official's wife telephoned her country's diplomatic office in Bombay and explained the situation.

The following day the emigration officers at the airport, who had off-loaded the nanny, were flabbergasted to see her arrive with an officer of the local consulate. There were mumbled apologies and the woman was cleared within minutes and whisked to the aircraft."

समापति महोदया, यह विषय बहुत गम्भीर है और इस तरह की घटनाओं से हमारे देश की प्रतिष्ठा को बहुत धक्का लगता है और इस समाचार का खण्डन भी नहीं किया गया है। इस का मतलब यह है कि यह

घटना सम्बन्धी है । मैं समझता हूँ कि इस पर भी कार्यवाही की जाएगी ।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Cannanore): Madam Chairman, this is a Bill mainly to seek enhancement of the fee for passport I agree with those Members who have said that it is necessary for us to think in terms of bringing forward a comprehensive Passport Bill. I agree with them and I do hope that the Minister will consider that.

About this enhancement of the fee for passport, I do not support this because I am not convinced by your argument that the money which you are receiving is just enough to give the passports. An argument was placed the passports. An argument of people seeking passports will increase, the revenue also will increase and you will not find it difficult to meet the situation with the money that you are receiving.

It is even more objectionable that even before adopting this Bill you start collecting money in anticipation that the Parliament would put the seal as you want.

Now, I come to another aspect of the problem. The Minister said that every citizen has a right to have a passport. But it should be remembered that even after getting a passport, there are so many legislations in our country which make travel almost impossible for common people. There is the P form, about which a decision has been taken to abolish it. There are immigration laws, about which a mention has been made by more than one speaker, and there is the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act. In view of this, I think you should have a fresh look into all these legislations to see to what extent these are in the interest of the people.

Then, when you charge more money, you should provide better facilities for the people at the passport offices.

Even in Delhi, there is hardly any place for people to sit there. There is hardly any place for people to conveniently wait for getting a passport. These are some of the things which you must consider.

I do not know whether you have received a deputation from Mahi about which a mention was made by the hon. Member from Pondicherry that it would be convenient for the people of Mahi to go to Calicut which is just across their border and to get a passport instead of going all the way to Madras, 700 kms. away and spending money for that. You may kindly consider this proposal.

Then, I am not against giving the facility for the people to get their applications for passports signed by Members of Parliament. I do not think, there is any big risk involved for the Members of Parliament in signing a passport application. I would like that the M.L.As. should also be given that authority. At least in Kerala, all the Members of Parliament are signing thousands of applications for passports and we do not care much about that risk whether financially he is sound or not. We take it that he is sound, that he is an honest man.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the people from Kerala are honest.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Most of the people are honest.

If you are prepared to consider this, I would suggest that the Panchayat Presidents are the best people for this verification because they know the people concerned.

Then, there are certain sections of people about whom you need not make a fresh enquiry for example Government servants. Everybody knows that police verification is done before his appointment is made. If the head of the department feels that this person is good enough and sound enough to go abroad, give him a passport and let him go outside the country.

[Shri C. K. Chandrapan]

I hope that some of these observations will find favour with the Minister. With these words, I conclude.

श्री पद्मभारण सामन्तसिंहेरा (पुरी) : इस बिल पर बोलते हुए मैं दो-तीन बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। पहली तो यह है कि पासपोर्ट आफिस में जो दस लाख एप्लीकेशंस पड़ी हुई है, उनके विना डिस्पोजल करने के लिए आपने क्या इंतजाम किया है। इस बारे में मिनिस्टर साहब बतायें। उन्होंने उनके जस्टी से डिस्पोजल के लिए क्या इंतजाम किया है? इसके लिए स्पेशल आफिसर मुकर्र होने चाहिए। दूसरी बात यह है कि पासपोर्ट रीजनल आफिस हरेक स्टेट में होने चाहिए। नहीं तो दूर दूर से लोगों को दिल्ली आना पड़ेगा, कलकत्ता जाना पड़ेगा। इससे मीडियेटर लोग फायदा उठाते हैं। वे लोग कहते हैं कि हम 15 दिन में पासपोर्ट दिला देंगे आप हमें रुपये दीजिए। आप पचास रुपये फीस ले रहे हैं मैं समझता हूँ कि इस में कोई आपत्ति की बात नहीं है। लेकिन आपको इसकी व्यवस्था भी करनी चाहिये कि जो भी एप्लीकेशन पासपोर्ट के लिए दे उसका निपटारा पन्द्रह दिन में या एक महीने में अवश्य हो जाना चाहिये और उसको अवश्य ही पासपोर्ट मिल जाना चाहिये। अगर ऐसा नहीं होता है तो जो आफिसर इस डिपार्टमेंट का इस काम के लिए जिम्मेदार हो उसके खिलाफ आपको एकशन लेना चाहिये। जब आप फीस बढ़ा रहे हैं तो आपको यह भी देखना चाहिये कि लोगों को सुविधा हो और उनको समय पर पासपोर्ट मिल जाए।

आप रिजनल आफिस खोल रहे हैं। वहाँ आने जाने में लोगों का बहुत खर्चा होता है। अब कोई अगर पुरी से कलकत्ता जाए तो आने जाने और खाने पीने में उसके दो सौ रुपये खर्च हो जाते हैं। इसके अलावा उनको बहुत असुविधा का सामना भी करना पड़ता है। इन बप्टरों को खोलने की आपको हर स्टेट में व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये।

अगर आप एकके तौर पर कहीं पर बप्टर नहीं खोल सकते हैं तो कम से कम आप ऐसी व्यवस्था तो कर ही सकते हैं कि महीने में एक दो दिन वहाँ आप का स्टाफ जाए और लोगों से एप्लीकेशन ले कर उनका पासपोर्ट देने की व्यवस्था कर दें। इससे उसको दूर आने जाने की जो तकलीफ होती है उससे वे बच सकेंगे। उनको इस तरह से आसानी हो सकती है।

पासपोर्ट देने में कोई रकाबट पेन न आए इसकी भी आपको व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। जो लोग बाहर जाते हैं वे अपने लिए धन तो कमाते ही हैं आपको फोरन एक्चेंज भी कमा कर देते हैं। इसमें देश को बहुत फायदा हो रहा है। इस वास्ते बाहर जाने वालों के रास्ते में किसी प्रकार की रकाबट खड़ी नहीं की जानी चाहिये।

होम डिपार्टमेंट का जो परसोनल विभाग है उसको पासपोर्ट आफिस के साथ सम्बद्ध किया जाना चाहिये। इसको वहाँ रखना चाहिये। किस को भेजना है, क्या कानून वहाँ पर उन पर लागू होंगे यह सब बातें वह उनको बता सकता है। अब ये जो विभाग अलग अलग हैं इन्से बड़ी गड़बड़ी होती है। दोनों विभाग एक जगह पर रहेंगे तो जो लोग बाहर जाते हैं उनको बड़ी आसानी होगी।

जब पासपोर्ट देने में देरी लगाई जाती है तो उससे अप्टार बढ़ता है। अगर एक माल लग जाए तो इसका सीधा सा मतलब अप्टाचार को बढ़ावा देना है। इस वास्ते अप्टाचार को बन्द करने के लिए भी यह जरूरी है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा एक महीने में लोगों को पासपोर्ट देने की व्यवस्था कर दी जाए।

विदेग मंत्री ने कहा था कि तीस हजार से कम जहाँ पर एप्लीकेशन की तादाद होगी, वहाँ पर रिजनल पासपोर्ट आफिस नहीं खोला जाएगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जो लिमिट रखी गई है इसको रखने की जरूरत नहीं है। आप वहाँ पर स्टाफ कम रख

सकते हैं जहाँ पर एकीकरण की तादाद कम हो। यह एक सोशल सर्विस डिपार्टमेंट है। सर्व साधारण जनता को फायदा देने के लिए इसको काम करना चाहिये।

जो आदमी बाहर जाते हैं ऐसा भी देखा गया है कि उन के ऊपर बहुत श्रमचार होते हैं। वहाँ पर उनको तनख्वाह नहीं मिलती है और खाने को नहीं मिलता है। जब उनको बाहर ले जाया जाता है तो यह कह कर ले जाया जाता है कि उनको आने जाने का खर्चा दिया जाएगा, हर महीने तनख्वाह दी जाएगी। लेकिन उनको वहाँ पर तनख्वाह जब नहीं मिलती है तो उनके सामने एक बड़ी समस्या आ कर खड़ी हो जाती है। विदेश मंत्रालय का फर्ज है कि वह देखें कि उनके साथ कैसा व्यवहार हो रहा है, बरताव हो रहा है।

जब एम पी के दस्तखत आप ले लेते हैं तो उसके बाद पुलिस रिपोर्ट मंगाने की जरूरत नहीं रहनी चाहिये। मैं यह भी चाहता हूँ कि एम एल ए को भी दस्तखत करने का अधिकार दिया जाना चाहिये। एम पी तो सात लाख की आबादी के पीछे एक होता है लेकिन एम एल ए के पीछे बहुत कम आदमी होते हैं और वह ज्यादा लोगों को जानता भी है। इस वास्ते उसको भी यह अधिकार दिया जाना चाहिये।

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Madam Chairman, the Bill seeks to increase the passport fee and the Statement of Objects and Reasons gives two reasons for the same. One is that the fee has remained constant for the past 17 1/2 years while the cost of providing passport services has gone up. The second reason given is to provide better services.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to this particular fact that during the past several years, a surplus, a huge surplus is being obtained from the Regional Passport Offices.

The revenue earned by the Regional Passport Office during 1975 amounted to Rs. 162 lakhs, while the expenditure was only Rs. 58 lakhs, giving a surplus of Rs. 104 lakhs. Then again in 1976, the revenue was Rs. 213 lakhs. The expenditure was Rs. 61 lakhs. The surplus was Rs. 152 lakhs.

I can understand that the number of passport applications have increased. But of this heap of surplus that is available, should the benefit not pass on to the people? I am afraid that this Government has the curse of Midas on it and the lust for money in order to provide a fundamental right of the poor citizen. With great fanfare the so-called policy of being liberal in the issue of passports was launched. But there are several restrictions that come, apart from the inordinate delays in the issue of the passports. In several offices there are piles and piles of applications. There is also inadequacy of staff in offices. I am happy that the hon. Minister is taking a keen and personal interest in this whole matter for which he deserves due credit. However, it is not merely being liberal in the issue of passports which is the only factor to be taken into account. There are several restrictions and to-day these restrictions are being observed most rigorously also. To point out the rigours of immigration laws may be a little irrelevant here, but because a claim is made of being liberal in the issue of the passport in order to implement the fundamental right or grant fundamental right of travelling, I have to point out these rigours of immigration laws. For example, the agreement paper containing the terms under which a person is employed, is required to be attested by the Indian Embassy abroad. No foreign employer wants to go through all this procedure. The result is that India is suffering and the foreign employer is turning to other countries because of all these rigours.

I need not repeat the harassment and the corruption that is there when

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla]

these people after having obtained the necessary passport and visas want to leave the country and go in search of job abroad. On the slightest pretext there is harassment. If the passport mentions one occupation and another occupation is mentioned in the visa, there is prevention of the person from proceeding abroad.

Similarly, there are several restrictions, harassment, corruption and there is a lot of loading of the people both at the airports and the docks. All these should receive due consideration at the hands of the Government.

Now I must also join in protest against Clause 7 of the Bill. It has introduced a very undemocratic innovation saying that the payment of the fee will start with the introduction of the Bill, in anticipation of the approval of the Bill by both the Houses. This is a very undemocratic innovation. I must raise strong protest against and take strong exception to it. I hope that such a clause, clause 7, will not be pressed by the Government.

Madam, I once again draw the attention of the Government to the great harassment of those emigrants who want to go in search of jobs. There is also a lot of corruption which is rampant. All these need immediate attention. Similarly, the Emigration Laws require thorough revision to be in conformity with modern requirements and in order to see that while our own people are not harassed, the foreign opportunities and avenues which are open to them do not dry up. With these words I conclude.

श्री ब्रजमूषण तिवारी (खनीनाबाद) : माननीया अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह पासपोर्ट संशोधन विधेयक विस्तृत विमर्श माध्याह्न-सा है और काफी मदद्यों ने हमारा समर्थन किया है, मैं ऐसा विश्वास करना हूँ कि यह विधेयक संसदमन्त्रि सभ में पारित होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. This Bill was allotted 2

hours. We have already reached this limit. Is it the pleasure of the House that the time for this Bill be extended by half an hour?

AN HON. MEMBER: One hour. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind hon. Members that there is a very heavy agenda and other urgent matters also. I request Members to cooperate. We extend it by half-an-hour.

I think, we have had a fairly good debate. So, it will be extended by half an hour. I request Members to be brief and not to repeat the points already made. Now, Mr. Tiwary.

श्री ब्रजमूषण तिवारी : मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि इस विधेयक के द्वारा पासपोर्ट की फीस को बढ़ा दिया गया है और सरकार की तरफ से और माननीय विदेश मंत्री ने अपने मंत्रालय की शास्त्र के समय उत्तर देते हुए यह कहा था कि हम पासपोर्ट देने के मामले में ज्यादा उदार होंगे, मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि सरकार की तरफ से जो कदम उठाए गए हैं, जैसे कि पासपोर्ट फार्म अब पोस्ट ऑफिस में भी भंगी जा सकते हैं, पुलिस वेरीफिकेशन को भी काफी सरल बना दिया गया है और साथ ही साथ जैसा कि कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि पहले केवल कुछ गजेटेड अधिकारियों या हाई जूडिशियल ऑफिसर्स को ही फार्म पर वेरीफिकेशन करने का अधिकार था परन्तु अब इस सरकार के द्वारा संसद-सदस्यों को भी यह अधिकार दे दिया गया है जिसके कारण तमाम लोगों को बड़ी रियायत और मदद मिली है। उसी का नतीजा यह है कि जहाँ 1975 से 4.75 लाख व्यक्तियों ने पासपोर्ट के लिए आवेदनपत्र दिए, वहाँ आज यह संख्या बढ़ कर 9 लाख के करीब हो गई है और अपने अपने

दिनों में 18 लाख के करीब तक बढ़ने वाली है। यह एक अच्छा कदम है, परन्तु ऐसा कि सुझाव दिया गया है, विधायकों को भी वैरिफिकेशन करने का अधिकार दिया जाना चाहिए और पुलिस वैरिफिकेशन के प्रोसीजर को और भी सरल बनाना चाहिए। आप जानते हैं कि इस समय लोगों को कितनी परेशानी होती है, और 35 दिन का जो समय निर्धारित किया गया है, उसके अन्दर लोगों को किसी भी कीमत पर पासपोर्ट नहीं मिल पाता है।

पासपोर्ट प्राप्त करने से सम्बन्धित बहुत सी एजेन्सियां बिल्कुल निर्मूल कर दी गई हैं। परन्तु आज भी बहुत से लोग सक्रिय हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That point has already been covered by the other speakers.

श्री ब्रजमूषण तिवारी : इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को और सजग हो कर ठोस कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए।

मेरा सुझाव है कि एक हाई-पावर इमीग्रेशन बोर्ड का गठन किया जाना चाहिए और गृह मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय, इंस्ट्रुटी एजुकेशन, टूरिज्म और सोशल वेलफेयर आदि तमाम मंत्रालयों के प्रतिनिधि उसके सदस्य हों। विदेशों में हमारे लोगों को जो परेशानी होती है, उसको दूर करने के लिए यह बोर्ड सारी प्रक्रिया को इंस्टीट्यूशनलाइज करे, विदेशों में गैर-सरकारी संस्थानों के गठन को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाये और इस प्रकार विदेशों में हमारे लोगों को जो परेशानी उठानी पड़ती है, उनका जो शोषण होता है, उनको भी संय किया जाता है उसको रोकने की व्यवस्था की जाये। बहुत से लोग अपने श्रमत कार्यों और धंधों के द्वारा अपने देश की उन्नत और स्वाभिमान को ठेस पहुंचाते हैं। इसको भी रोकने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

अन्य नियमों में भी ढील होनी चाहिए ताकि हर एक आदमी को मौलिक अधिकार के रूप में जो अधिकार प्राप्त है, उसके अनुसार हर एक आदमी को विदेश जाने, वहां रहने और घूमने का हक हासिल हो।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विल का तहे-विल से समर्थन करता हूँ।

*SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI (Madras North): Madam Chairman, I rise to say a few words on the Passports Amendment Bill. In 1976 there were 5 lakh applications for Passports and in 1977 this galloped to 9 lakh applications. This is mainly due to the liberalisation of rules, regulations and procedures for obtaining Passports by the Janata Government. The moment that the Government of India declared that the M.Ps can sign the Passport application forms, the number of applicants swelled to double. This shows that the number of applicants for Passports would increase further if the facilities are expanded. It is the birth-right of a citizen to move wherever he likes. The Government must do everything enabling the citizens to enjoy this birth-right.

If you analyse why our people in greater numbers are seeking Passports, you will find that they are mainly motivated by the desire to get jobs outside, which they are unable to get within the country. In the country they are not getting enough to quench their hunger and thirst, do not have shelter and clothing to cover themselves from sun, showers and shame. They do not go for sight-seeing. If unnecessary hurdles are put in their way of getting Passport, it means that they are denied job opportunities abroad and they are not enabled to get jobs within the country. Previously only bureaucrats were eligible to sign the application forms for Passports. By empowering the M.Ps to

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. A. P. Asaithambi]

sign these application forms, the Government have opened up fresh avenues for the job-seekers. I want that the M.L.As and M.L.Cs also should be authorised to sign the Passport application forms. The people of a Lok Sabha constituency do not get a chance even once in a year to see their Member, as he spends half the year here in Delhi. I demand, along with my hon. friend Shri Chandrappan who also stressed the need for doing this...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want this right to be withdrawn or what? You come to the point and be brief.

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: I want that the M.L.As and M.L.Cs should be authorised to sign the Passport application forms. There are six Assembly constituencies in a Lok Sabha Constituency. The M.L.A. is more closely acquainted with his constituency than a Member of Lok Sabha because of the compactness of his constituency. If this facility is given to them, then, I am sure that the number of applicants for Passports will go up manifold. More and more unemployed youths will be able to seek their livelihood abroad.

The increase of application fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 does not redound to the credit of the Janata Government which swears by the name of the people of the country. As pointed out by my hon. friend, Shri Bala Pajanor, the application fee can be increased for those who want to go for pleasure trips abroad, who go to foreign countries for getting technical know-how for their industries in the country and such other exigencies. But the fees for application forms of those seeking jobs outside, just because they do not get jobs in the country, should not be increased. In fact, such employment Passports should be separated for this purpose.

I demand that there should be more regional offices in the Southern States. I can substantiate my demand for

more regional Passport Offices in the Southern States by referring to the fact that 56 per cent of the total unemployed in the country live in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Kerala you have already two Offices. If there are more offices, naturally it will greatly facilitate quick disposal of applications and issuance of more Passports for the job-seekers. Mr. Chandrappan narrated the problems of people of Mahe coming to Madras to get Passports. Similarly, it is more expensive for the people of Kanyakumari to come to Madras for getting passports. I demand that a sub-office should be opened at Madurai in Tamil Nadu so that the hardships of people living in southern districts of Tamil Nadu are minimised if not eliminated. They would be able to get their Passports with minimum of time and money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope that you are making your final point.

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: I am giving a new suggestion. You are aware of the fact that there are so many private agencies which are exploiting the situation. They swindle the gullible people of the country by promising a rosy future for them abroad. I have heard that they fleece to the extent of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 8000 per person. It is time that the Central Government steps in to prevent these rapacious people from cheating and deceiving the unfortunate job-seekers. The Central Government should issue directives to the State Governments that they should be ultimately responsible for sending the people outside the country for jobs. If Arab countries want Doctors or Engineers, they can go outside only through the Central Government. Why should not the industrial workers and labourers go through the State Governments? Why should they be left to the tender mercies of mercenaries? The Central Government should stress that the State Governments do this job of sending people outside for jobs. The

M.L.As and the M.L.Cs should be authorised to sign the application forms for the Passports. The hon. Member belonging to Muslim League pointed out that the Government of India does not suffer from paucity of resources even from the existing sum of Rs. 25 per application form. There is adequate revenue from the existing rate. There is no need to increase it to Rs. 50. This proposal should be dropped instantly. If that cannot be done, at least Employment Passports should be exempted from this increase. It should be bifurcated from the Passports for luxury trips abroad whose applicants can afford to pay more for getting their Passports.

With these words I conclude my speech.

श्री महीलाल (विजनीर) : सभापति महोदया, सबसे पहले तो मैं धन्यमति चाहता हूँ—विशेष धन्यमति चाहता हूँ—कि आप मुझे शासन को बधाई देने का मौका दें, क्योंकि आप रोक रही हैं...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No repetition. You should make only new points. The same points are being repeated. I think they have been covered already.

श्री महीलाल : सभापति महोदया, मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से विशेष रूप से मजदूर लोग बाहर जा रहे हैं, ऐसे लोग जो मकान बनाने का काम करते हैं, राज-मजदूर हैं, बड़ई हैं—इस तरह के लोग बाहर जा रहे हैं।

इन लोगों के पासपोर्ट बनने में जो दिक्कत उनको होती है, वह तो अपनी जगह है, लेकिन सब से बड़ी दिक्कत है—वह यह कि कुछ इस तरह की एजेसियां खुल गई हैं जो उन की जेबों को काटती हैं, उनको लूटती हैं। मैं सब से पहले मंत्री जी से यह अनुरोध करना कि इन भीले-भाले, बीघे-सादे मेहनतकश लोगों को उनके वंचन से बचायें। ये लोग

एजेन्सी के नाम पर घपटे वस्त्र खीस कर बैठ जाते हैं, उन के पासपोर्ट छीन लेते हैं, उन से पांच-छः हजार रुपया छीन लेते हैं—ऐसे लोगों को सब से पहले रोक किया जाना चाहिये। आप के पासपोर्ट आफिस के चारों तरफ इनके दलाल बूमते रहते हैं—मैं चाहता हूँ कि आपके अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों की तरफ से ऐसी व्यवस्था रहनी चाहिये जिससे इन लोगों को लूटा न जा सके, उनके साथ ठीक व्यवहार किया जाये, उनको सही वाइस दी जाय।

17 hrs.

[SHRI DEHENDRANATH BASU IN THE CHAIR]

माननीय मंत्री जी से एक शिकायत मैं यह करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश राष्ट्र का वह अभाग्य प्राप्त है, जो कहने के लिये तो प्रान्त है, लेकिन संसार के देशों में सबसे नम्बर पर आता है। यह प्रान्त आज तक सरकार के फीसलों के सिलसिले में सफर करता रहा है और उसी तरह से आज पासपोर्ट के मामले में भी सफर कर रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश की आबादी लगभग 11 करोड़ है, इतनी बड़ी आबादी के लिये केवल एक पासपोर्ट आफिस लखनऊ में है। इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि जो मजदूर विजनीर, सहारनपुर, या देहरादून के रहने वाले हैं—जब उन के पासपोर्ट को डेढ़ या दो साल हो जाते हैं तो उनको भाग कर लखनऊ जाना पड़ता है। आप धन्यमान लगाइये—लखनऊ जाने में अपनी कितने दिनों की कमाई उसको खर्च करनी पड़ती है और वहाँ पर इन्तजार करना पड़ता है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप उत्तर प्रदेश के पश्चिमी जिलों में एक सब-आफिस उधर खोल दीजिये। यदि आप इस को न खोल सकें, तो कम से कम इतना कर दीजिये कि इन पश्चिमी जिलों को दिल्ली के साथ जोड़ दीजिये, जिससे लोगों की बरबादी और नुट खत्म हो जाय।

एक माननीय सचिव : पश्चिमी जिलों के लिये मेरठ में खोला जा सकता है।

श्री महीलाब : यह बिल्कुल सही बात है । उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ आज सौतेली सन्तान जैसा व्यवहार हो रहा है । जिस प्रदेश की आबादी 11 करोड़ है, जो देश की आबादी का 6ठा हिस्सा लिये बैठा है, जिसका एरिया बहुत बड़ा है—मैं मंत्री जी से आशा करता हूँ कि वे इस की कठिनाई की तरफ ध्यान देंगे और पश्चिमी जिलों के लिये आवश्यक कुछ व्यवस्था करेंगे—चाहे मेरठ में करें, नुरादबाद में करें या रामपुर में करें—लेकिन पश्चिमी जिलों के लिये व्यवस्था पश्चिमी जिलों में ही होनी चाहिये ।

निर्वाण और आवास तथा पूर्ति और पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बल्ल) : उत्तर प्रदेश को छोटा क्यों नहीं करना देते ।

श्री महीलाब : उसके लिये भी कहेंगे—भ्रगर हमारी हाईकोर्ट की मांग को स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे तब फिर इस के अलावा और कोई चारा हमारे पास नहीं रह जायगा । भ्रगर उत्तर प्रदेश और वहाँ की सरकार के साथ ऐसा ही व्यवहार होता रहा, तो फिर साहब सूबे के बटवारे की बात भी कही जायगी, वह भी नहीं रुकेगी । यदि आप सूबे के बटवारे को रोकना चाहते हैं तो आबादी के लिहाज से अनुदान दीजिये, आर्थिक मदद दीजिये, प्रशासनिक सुविधायें दीजिये, तब फिर हमारी यह मांग शान्त रहेगी, इसमें बजन नहीं रहेगा । लेकिन यदि आप का वर्तमान व्यवहार जारी रहा, तब फिर यह मांग जोर पकड़ेगी और इतनी शक्तिशाली होगी कि आप को मनना पड़ेगा ।

अन्त में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता कि गरीब मजदूरों के साथ आज जो ठगी हो रही है, दफ्तरों में बैठ कर हो रही है, उस को उस ठगी से बचाने की व्यवस्था कीजिये । आपने जो 50 रुपये की फीस रखी है—मैं इसको ज्यादा नहीं मानता, उसको ज्यादाती भी नहीं कहता लेकिन ज्यादाती इसे मानता

हूँ कि डेढ़-डेढ़ साल हो जाते हैं, उन को पासपोर्ट नहीं मिलता उनकी जेबें काटी जाती हैं, ये एजेन्सियां उन के मकान, जेवर, गिरवी रखवाकर उन को लूट लेती हैं और उसके बाद भी वे सफल नहीं हो पाते हैं ।

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): At the outset I congratulate the hon. Minister for having made the work very easy and for giving the responsibility to Members of Parliament to in sign passport forms. By making Members of Parliament to sign the passport applications perhaps the hon. Minister wanted to make them popular in their constituencies. Wherever 25 persons in a village want that I should sign their passport, forms they invite me to the village and I go and sign their forms and complete other formalities like signing photographs. Like that I have covered many villages. That is how we can approach people directly. There is no hanky-panky in this. I congratulate the Minister for having made this work very easy. The Minister may be surprised. In Hyderabad, in Andhra Pradesh the passport office has issued passports in 15 days after the 15th day of my signature, the men came to me with their passports. So, I was surprised. The same is the case in Bombay, Maharashtra, where about 10-15 lakhs of Andhras live; there also it is easy to get the pass-port. In Delhi also the work is easy. There is a lot of change in the regional passport offices after the introduction of this system. Unnecessarily we should not go on condemning the officers in season and out of season. They are doing very good work. We should not talk of the past things now. Those days are gone. Because the Ministers are strict and earnest the officers are also doing a good job. I can tell you my own experience during the last Lok Sabha. I was an effective Member and I tried

for 100 passports; for six months I could not get them. In the end I wrote to the External Affairs Minister—Mr. Kundu can see the correspondence—if you do not issue those passports in eight days, I am going to withdraw my request. The passports were issued. Now every day I can sign 100 passport forms. It is very good improvement. The Government of India is earning a lot of foreign exchange and a day may come when the invisible amounts and external remittances that are coming from outside may be equal to the budget of this country. Then our country will be very prosperous. I congratulate Mr. Kundu, Mr. Vajpayee and this government for the excellent work that they have done.

SHRI G. S. REDDY (Miryalguda): Members have made several points and there is not much to be said. In the statement of objects and reasons it is said that at the rate of Rs. 5 per year they were collecting Rs. 15 for three years. Later on it was changed to Rs. 25 and they said that it will be for five years, at the rate of Rs. 5 per year. Now that you are going to charge Rs. 50, are you going to change the period also for the validity of the passport?

The second point is this. The reason for the introduction of Rs. 50 is that you want to legalise what is being done. What is being done is collection of Rs. 50. If what we have been collecting is illegal and if you are trying to legalise it, you must accept that what was collected was illegal. If it was illegal you should be able to remit the amount. Therefore, please let us know what is the legal position in this matter before we give our consent to this Bill. There is another reason. The number of applications have increased so much that it should be sufficient to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the department. As several hon. Members have made out, the number

of applications have been increasing by lakhs and lakhs. From five lakhs, it has come to 9 lakhs and it will go upto 18 lakhs. This should give sufficient revenue. There is also the question of foreign exchange that we are earning. The foreign exchange earning has been increasing and that is also the reason why we should not increase the rate from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30.

There is another reason. There are so many States where the work has increased and as the work increases, you should be able to increase the number of offices, in order to achieve the object of liberalisation and to give passport to everybody. Now for example, our Kerala nationals are increasing in such a great way that there is a direct service from Gulf countries to Kerala. That means in Trivandrum also, you should open an office for issuing passport. They are making the greatest contribution by earning foreign exchange to our country. Therefore, more facilities should be given in Kerala as well as in other places wherever there is increase in the number of applications.

There are certain complaints of our nationals being ill-treated; they are being subjected to some immorality pollution also. Just as in Shri Lanka, we should be able to appoint a Committee to go over to those places and examine the situation and take some remedial steps so that there is no ill-treatment.

My next point is, in the granting of passport there should be no political colour. There was a news that Mrs. Gandhi was not given passport for sometime. But, later on, I heard that it is being given. If that is so, it should not be repeated in future and no political colour should be given unless there is a criminal case.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (बुजुराहो) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय विदेश मंत्री श्री कुन्दु साहब ने जो पासपोर्ट संशोधन विधेयक रखा है, उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ और उसी संदर्भ में कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल में जो सुविधा प्रदान की गयी है कि संसद् सदस्य भी हस्ताक्षर कर सकते हैं, उससे सभी लोगों का राहत मिली है। जहाँ तक कनफर्मेशन की बात है, मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि कनफर्मेशन के लिए कागजात हमारे पास आने चाहिए। इससे भी लोगों को सहूलियत मिलेगी। नहीं तो कुछ लोग उसका गलत उपयोग कर सकते हैं। यह कहा गया है कि 33 दिन में पासपोर्ट प्रदान कर दिया जाएगा। मुझ इसमें कुछ शंका है। मैं आपको बता सकता हूँ कि मैंने तीन-चार महीने पहले—मार्च, अप्रैल और मई मासों में—जो दस्तखत किये थे, अभी तक वे कनफर्मेशन के लिए मेरे पास नहीं आये हैं। इसलिये उस आधार पर मैं कह सकता हूँ कि उन पर पासपोर्ट की कार्यवाही अभी तक नहीं हुई है जो कि अब तक हो जानी चाहिए थी। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि पासपोर्ट बनाने में जल्दी की जाए जिससे लोगों को दिक्कत न हो।

आपने पासपोर्ट फीस बढ़ायी है। मुझे इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है क्योंकि जो लोग बाहर जाना चाहते हैं उनमें एक वर्ग तो ऐसा है जो व्यापार के लिए बाहर जाता है। वह वर्ग तो पचास रुपये क्या, कई हजार रुपये की फीस दे सकता है। दूसरा वर्ग वह है जो यात्रा करने के लिए या सैर-सपाटे के लिए जाता है। वह वर्ग भी ज्यादा फीस दे सकता है। लेकिन एक वर्ग ऐसा भी है, जिसके लोग बेकार हैं और वे बाहर नौकरी करने के लिए जाना चाहते हैं। इस वर्ग के लिए 50 रुपये फीस ज्यादा है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि आप इस बात को ज़रूर सोचें। आपको यह पाबपोर्ट फीस इनकम टैक्स देने वालों और इनकम टैक्स न देने वालों के लिए अलग अलग रखनी चाहिए। आपको

गरीबों और धनी लोगों को बराबर की कटेगरी में नहीं रखना चाहिए। जो गरीब हैं, बेकार हैं, उनको इस सम्बन्ध में आपको सहूलियत देनी चाहिए।

तीसरी बात मैं रीजनल आफिसिज खोलने के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। कुन्दु साहब ने कहा है कि सभी प्रान्तों में पारुपोर्ट के दफ्तर खोले जाएंगे। इस संदर्भ में उन्होंने उड़ीसा का नाम लिया लेकिन न जाने मध्य प्रदेश उनसे कैसे छूट गया।

मध्य प्रदेश भेलफल में सब से बड़ा है। वहाँ की आबादी भी अधिक है। पाकिस्तान और दूसरे देशों से उसका सम्बन्ध भी है। हमेशा वहाँ के घादमी उन देशों में आते जाते रहते हैं। अभी मध्य प्रदेश के लिए लखनऊ में दफ्तर है। इससे बड़ी दिक्कत होती है। मैं कहूँगा कि सब से पहले मध्य प्रदेश के वास्ते भोपाल में दफ्तर खोला जाना चाहिये। वहाँ की इसके बारे में बहुत खबरदस्त मांग है। बातचीत में उनको इस मांग को स्वीकार भी कर लिया गया था। मैं चाहता हूँ कि भोपाल में सबसे पहले इस दफ्तर को खोलने की घोषणा होनी चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह (होशियारपुर) : सब से पहले मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया है।

बाहर जाने वाले लोगों में पंजाब के लोगों की तादाद बहुत ज्यादा है। आजादी की लड़ाई में कामाघाटामारू जहाज बहुत मशहूर है। उसने हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई में अहम रोल भूदा किया था। उसमें दुआबे के लोगों, होशियारपुर, जासंघर, अमृतसर के लोगों ने जा कर हिन्दुस्तान की लड़ाई में सब से पहले हिस्सा लिया और बाहर के मुक्तों से हथियार ले कर हिन्दुस्तान को हथियारों के बल पर आजाद करवाने की कोशिश की।

आपने पासपोर्ट के मामले में जो सहूलियत देने की व्यवस्था की है उसके लिए मैं आपकी धन्यवाद देता हूँ। पहले लोगों को पांच सौ, हजार रुपये एजेंटों को वे कर पासपोर्ट बनवाना पड़ता था। अब मैं जो सुझाव आपको देने जा रहा हूँ उन पर आप धमल करेंगे तो लोगों को अब भी जो तकलीफें हो रही हैं वे दूर हो जाएंगी। जब पासपोर्ट की प्रक्रियां धाती हैं उसी वक्त अगर देख लिया जाए कि वे मुकम्मिल हैं या नहीं और उसी वक्त उनको मुकम्मिल करवा लिया जाए तो बहुत आसानी हो जाएगी। शरारत क्या हो रही है। दो तीन महीने के बाद पत्र लिख देते हैं कि आपकी फोटो नहीं है या इस कागज की कमी है। शरारत यह होती है कि तीन चार महीने के बाद चिट्ठी चली जाती है कि दुबारा दरखास्त दी जाए। जो डील बी हुई है उसकी वजह से गलत तरीके से पैसे लिए जाते हैं और काम रुक जाता है। अगर पासपोर्ट की प्रर्जां प्राते ही उसी वक्त उसको एंटेड करने वाला जो प्रादमी है उसी वक्त उसको बैंक कर ले और जो कमी है उसके बारे में उसी वक्त इनफार्म कर दे तो बहुत आसानी हो सकती है और बेरी जो लगती है वह भी न लगे। साथ ही प्रष्टाचार को भी इससे बढ़ावा नहीं मिलेगा।

एक और शरारत की जाती है। बेरिफिकेशन के दुबारा कागज भेज दिए जाते हैं। बेरिफिकेशन हम भेज देते हैं लेकिन फिर भी दुबारा कागजात भेज दिए जाते हैं। मैं आपकी अपनी बात बताता हूँ। मैं चंभीगढ़ गया। खुद वहां दे कर प्राया। जिन कागजात को दे कर प्राया उनके बारे में उन लोगों ने दुबारा मुझ से पूछा। दो चार बार मैंने रिजनल पासपोर्ट आफिस का इस बारे में ध्यान भी प्राकथित किया। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह बहुत गलत तरीका है। जब हम बेरिफिकेशन भेज देते हैं तो फिर दुबारा क्यों मांगा जाता है।

एक और घोषा है। बाहर के मुल्कों से शेष प्राकि जो बीसा देने प्राते हैं पहले वे

बड़ी ईमानदारी से काम करते थे। अब वे हमारे देश के कुछ एजेंटों से मिल कर नई शरारत कर रहे हैं। बीसा दो तीन महीने का वे देते हैं। यहाँ से जाने वाले चले जाते हैं। यह प्राधि समाप्त होने के बाद उनको पता चलता है कि उनको वापिस जाना है। एक तो हमारे यहाँ के एजेंट और दूसरे शेष जो बीसा देते यहाँ प्राते हैं वे पैसा लेते हैं। उनको यह कहा जाता है कि जो एम्प्लायर है वह उसके प्राने जाने का किराया देगा, जिस को भेजा जाना है उससे एक पैसा भी नहीं लिया जाएगा (अवबधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

चौधरी बलबीर सिंह : सब से ज्यादा होशियारपुर जिले के लोग गए हैं। पंजाब के लोगों ने खून पसीना एक करके हिन्दुस्तान को फारेन एक्सचेंज कमा कर दिया है और अरबों दिया है। अब उन लोगों की जो तकलीफें हैं उनको मैं आपके नोटिस में ला रहा हूँ। मैं किसी चीज को रिपीट नहीं कर रहा हूँ। जो तकलीफें हैं वही मैं बता रहा हूँ। अगर आप इनकी तरफ ध्यान नहीं देंगे तो फायदा नहीं होगा।

जब यह बिल पेश हुआ है तब इसमें यह चन्द बातें न कर सकें जो मैं बता रहा हूँ तो कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। शेष लोग इस तरह से शरारत करते हैं कि 2, 3 महीने का बीसा देते हैं और बाहर जाने वाले को पता नहीं रहता कि उसको कहां ले जाया जा रहा है। एजेंट लोग उसको बम्बई ले जाते हैं और बम्बई से

सभापति महोदय : प्राप समाप्त कीजिये।

चौधरी बलबीर सिंह : बम्बई से काबुल भेज देते हैं, हालांकि उसे कहते हैं कि मुयको ईरान, कुवायत या अबू धाबी भेज रहे हैं। लेकिन जहाज में चढ़ा कर उसको काबुल भेज देते हैं

बौधरी बलबीर सिंह : इतने में तो मैं अपनी बात खत्म कर देता। वह बेचारा काबुल में जा कर कैद हो जाता है क्योंकि उसके पास बीजा वहाँ का नहीं होता है, इसलिये वत बेचारा को वापस भ्राना पड़ता है। जो जो चन्द सुभाव मैंने दिये हैं इन पर आप धमल करें जिससे लोगों को भ्रासानी हो और उनको ठगा न जा सके। साथ ही पासपोर्ट ऑफिस आप जलंधर या लुधियाना में जल्दी से जल्दी खोलें। इसके भ्रानावा पालियामेंट के सम्बरों को डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट दें।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्छा (नागौर) : मान्य-वर, राजस्थान के लोगों को पासपोर्ट बनवाने के लिये दिल्ली भ्राना पड़ता है। राजस्थान में खासतौर से मेरे जिले और भ्रासपास के जिलों के हजारों गरीब लोग बाहर गये हैं और जाने की सोचते हैं। आपका जो यह दावा है कि 2, 3 महीने में पासपोर्ट बन जायेगा इससे मैं सहमत नहीं हूँ। मेरे खुद के दस्तखत किये हुए मेरे इलाके के लोगों पासपोर्ट 9, 10 महीने तक नहीं भ्राये हैं। मैं राजस्थान के 5, 6 जिलों की हालत जानता हूँ। जब से मैंम्बर पालियामेंट पासपोर्ट के लिये दस्तखत करने लगे हैं कुछ पासपोर्ट तो जल्दी भ्राने लगे हैं, लेकिन कुछ भ्राते ही नहीं, और जो भी भ्रादमी भ्राना पासपोर्ट लेने के लिये दिल्ली भ्राया वह मूंड कर जाता है। इसलिये यह जो भ्रष्टाचार है इसको आप रोकें। लोगों को यहाँ भ्राने की जरूरत ही न पड़े और यहाँ पर रिश्वत न चले। आप 4 महीने का समय रख दीजिये हमें कोई एतराज नहीं है, पर कोई लिमिट जरूर होनी चाहिये जिसके अन्धर पासपोर्ट बन कर भ्रादमी को मिल जाये।

आपने फीस बढ़ाने का कारण दिया है कि और सपतर खोलेंगे। तो राजस्थान में भी खोल दें। अब तो जल्दी खोल दीजिये। हम 50 रुपये पर एतराज नहीं करते हैं

क्योंकि बेचारे गरीब बाहर जाते हैं तो उनका पैसा बसूब हो जाता है क्योंकि उनको काम मिल जाता है। लेकिन जिनको पासपोर्ट मित्र जाने के बाद भी बाहर जाने का मौका नहीं मिलता, या पासपोर्ट ही समय से नहीं मिलता उनको तो 50 रुपये भी भ्रारी पड़ते हैं। खास बात यह है कि जो लोग बाहर जाते हैं उनको रोजगार मिलता है और देश में फीरेन एक्सचेंज भ्राता है। तो कम के कम ऐसी व्यवस्था कर दीजिये कि केवल रजिस्टर्ड एजेन्सीज ही लोगों को बाहर भेजने का काम करेंगी और उन्हीं एजेन्सीज को आप लाइसेंस दे दीजिये ताकि बीच में जो भ्रान-भ्रायोराइज्ड लोग लोगों को धोखा देते हैं, उनको लूट करते हैं यह बन्द हो जाये। आप रजिस्टर्ड एजेन्सीज बना दीजिये, लाइसेंस फी बांध दीजिए, जिससे आपको भ्राय भी होगी और साथ ही आपको मालूम भी रहेगा कि कौन बाहर भेज रहे हैं। अगर ऐसा कर देंगे तो धोखेबाजी नहीं होगी। नहीं तो गीब लोगों का हजारों रुपया बरबाद हो जाता है उनके घर, जमीन विक जाती हैं फिर भी उनको बाहर जाने का मौका नहीं मिलता है। तो इसको रेगुलराइज करने में क्या दिक्कत है? वह एक बड़ी भ्रारी प्रोब्लम है जिसको आप भ्रासानी से हल कर सकते हैं। रजिस्टर्ड एजेन्सीज को लाइसेंस दे करके भ्रायोराइज्ड लोग ही लोगों को बाहर भेजने का काम करें ताकि कोई भ्रादमी बदमाशी करें तो वह पकड़ा जाये और आप उनको अच्छी तरह से डील कर सकें।

डा० राजबी सिंह (भागलपुर) : सभापति महोदय, पासपोर्ट बिल जो हम लोगों के सामने उपस्थित है, इसके सम्बन्ध में यह बात तो निश्चित ही है कि भ्रव विदेश जाने के लिये हम लोगों का बहुत उत्साह हो रहा है।

1973-74 में जहाँ 41 हजार एप्ली-केशन पासपोर्ट के लिये भ्रायी थी तो 37 हजार

कोषों को दिये गये, 1974-75 में 71 हजार एप्लीकेशन फार्मी और 54 हजार को पासपोर्ट दिये गये, 1975-79 में 78 हजार एप्लीकेशन फार्मी और 81 हजार को पासपोर्ट दिये गये, क्योंकि बैकसाग साफ करना था और 1976-77 में 1 लाख 8 हजार एप्लीकेशन फार्मी और 87 हजार को पासपोर्ट दिये गये ।

अबबारों में हमने देखा है कि पासपोर्ट विदम्राउट टीअर्स । जनता सरकार भाने से जिस प्रकार एक बार देश में फिर स्वतंत्रता मिली है, उसी प्रकार से बाहर जाने के लिये भी है ।

हमारे श्री रवि जी ने कहा था कि पासपोर्ट देना कोई मेहरबानी नहीं है, यह हमारा जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है । सचमुच में यू० एन० थि० के यूनिवर्सल डिक्लेयेशन आफ ह्यूमन राइट्स को 23वाँ धारा के दूसरे खंड में भी बाहर जाने का और भूमने का मानव का अधिकार माना गया है । इंटरनेशनल कमीशन आफ जूरिस्ट ने भी कहा है कि पासपोर्ट का अधिकार मिलना चाहिये । इंडियन कास्टोडियन को धारा में भी इसी तरह की बात है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी पासपोर्ट के अधिकार का समर्थन किया था जिसके बाद भी 1967 में पासपोर्ट एक्ट का संशोधन करना पड़ा, उसमें भी है । लेकिन यही नहीं, यह सब कहते हुए भी हमारे रवि जी काश । यह पहले कहते जब कि सेंट्रल लैजिस्लेटिव असेम्बली थी । उस समय भी जब पासपोर्ट बिल 1920 में प्रस्तुत किया गया था तो वहां के अंग्रेज मि० डीबस ने कहा था—

"It was at first hoped that after the War, it would be possible to do away with the system."

तो यह तो पहले से ही बात थी कि पार-ग्रन्थ लेने का हमारा जन्म सिद्ध अधिकार है, लेकिन हमारे रवि जी शायद यह भूल जाते हैं कि हमारे संविधान में भी रैस्ट्रिक्शन थी

गई है । ऐसा कोई देश नहीं है, जहां पर रैस्ट्रिक्शन न दी गई हों । यह ठीक है, कि हमारे उस समय के परराष्ट्र मन्त्री श्री छागला

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am least bothered about our foreign masters. We are living in a free country. I am sorry that the Member from the Janata Party still wants to follow the footsteps of our earlier foreign masters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that time be extended by half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

डा० रामजी सिंह : हमारे रवि जी को अग्रर दुःख हुआ है तो मैं नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ ; लेकिन यू०एन०ए० में भी 212 धारा में

"No passport shall be granted or issued to or verified for any other persons than those owing allegiance whether citizens or not, to the United States."

और यह कहते हैं कि जनता सरकार में स्वतन्त्रता की बहुत कम बात है । मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि ब्रिटिश पार्लियामेंट के कानून के मुताबिक भी पासपोर्ट के लिये इसी प्रकार की बात है ।

मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ पासपोर्ट इम्पाउण्ड किये गये थे, तो एमजेंसी में केवल 2 हजार पासपोर्ट ही इम्पाउण्ड किये गये थे । मैं केवल रवि जी से ही नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन अभी जो हमारे सामने पासपोर्ट विधेयक है, इसमें मैं केवल दो बातों पर कहना चाहता हूँ ।

एक बात तो यह है कि जहां फीस की बात उन्होंने कही, मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो आयकर देते हैं, जिनके पास पैसा है, उनसे तो

[डा० रामजी सिंह]

10 रुपये फीस करदी जाये लेकिन जो प्राय-कर नहीं देते हैं, उनकी फीस को कम किया जाये।

यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स आफ अमेरिका में 10 डालर फीस ली जाती है और रिन्यूअल के लिये 5 डालर लिये जाते हैं। मैंने देखा है कि हर प्रान्त के लोग चाहते हैं कि उनके यहां पासपोर्ट आफिस हो जाए, मैं नहीं कहता कि पटना में हो जाये, बिहार में हो जाये, मैं राज्य मन्त्री को सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि हर प्रदेश के मुख्यालय में पारपत्र दफ्तर होना ही चाहिये। इससे जनता का बहुत पैसा बचेगा। अगर इस बात को ध्यान में रखा जाये, तो क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों के लिए जो अस्वस्थ होड़ हो रही है, वह शायद नहीं होगी।

पासपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में कुछ न कुछ पाबन्दी लगाना आवश्यक है।

इस सम्बन्ध में कहा गया है: "एकार्डिंग टु दि प्रोसीजर एस्टाब्लिशड बाई ला"। भ्रानन्द नारायण मुल्ला ने अपनी बहस में कहा था कि पासपोर्ट इस्सू करना "शुड बि टेकन एज ए रूल, बट रिफ्यूजल शुड बि टेकन एज एन एक्सेप्शन।" अर्थात् पासपोर्ट देने से इन्कार करना अपवादस्वरूप होना चाहिए, पासपोर्ट देना नियमस्वरूप होना चाहिए। इस लिए जब भी पासपोर्ट रैफ्यूज किया जाये, तो कारण बताना चाहिए। अगर हम कारण बता देते हैं और भ्रष्टालत में जाने की स्वतन्त्रता दे देते हैं, तो अगर कुछ पाबन्दी भी लगाई जाती है, तो उस का भी आदर होगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस पारपत्र विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Samarendra Kundu, who has piloted this Bill, is a sweet and amiable person, and I accept most of his point of view. I do not think this

Passport Amendment Bill contains any particular clause, which is either controversial or objectionable. All that it says is two things—first, increase the fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, and secondly efficiency and expeditious disposal should be emphasized; I hope it will be implemented. This is what the Passport Bill says, and if that is so, it is to be welcomed.

Having said that, I would oppose strongly the whole idea of bringing this Bill with this kind of an anticipatory provision. The fee has been increased from Rs. 25 to 50 from the time of introduction of this Bill. Thousands or lakhs of citizens have already applied on the basis that the fee is Rs. 25 but have paid Rs. 50, since you have raised it to Rs. 50. Of course, you say that if the Parliament will not approve of it, you will not do it. But you know jolly well that Parliament will approve of it. Actually parliamentary democracy perhaps means that the Cabinet dictates and the Parliament registers or okays! That is the actual principle and practice. Now you are making it a more practical reality! You should at least be ashamed of it. You should not take our approval for granted. Next time, do not anticipate our approval. Even if the House will support you in this matter, anticipating the approval is not a proper thing. Suppose, for the sake of argument, we say "no", will you give a refund of Rs. 25 to all those people? How will you do it? What about the interest on the money that you have taken? All these questions come in. Apart from all that, it is basically anti-democratic and very wrong.

People who are wanting to go abroad do not mind an increase from Rs. 25 to 50, even though it is an increase of 100 per cent, provided there is a corresponding increase in efficiency. But in terms of efficiency the rise will not be more than 25 per cent.

So far as passport offices are concerned, what we want is that there should be scientific organisation and

streamlining of procedures. Help, assistance and guidance should be given, particularly to the poor and illiterate applicants, who are in need of guidance, who are largely exploited by spurious kind of travel agents. There are good and bad travel agents. Many of them are good, but many more are bad. Since a large number of poor and illiterate applicants flock the passport offices, they must make arrangements for guidance and assistance. The suggestion that there should be an increased number of passport offices and specially in all State capitals is good.

In passport offices there should be four things. Firstly, there should be adequate staff. Secondly, there should be adequate office accommodation. Thirdly, there should be necessary equipment and gadgets. Fourthly, there should be sufficient number of officers, particularly clerks, knowing the local language. It is equally important. It is no use appointing people who do not know the local language it will create difficulties.

Lastly, I come to corruption. My point is that corruption in every Government department is largely because of delays. In passport offices, because there is more delay, so there is more corruption. In some cases, there is deliberate delay and that gives scope for more corruption.

Now, Sir, I want to make this point in great seriousness. Here is the Government of India, the Janata Party Government, who from their policy of 15th August, 1977, of last year, asked us MPs to sign the forms, which we are doing. It has added to our work in a tremendous way. I do not mind, we will do it, but the point is they are asking us to know all people. How do we know all people? If I know a person for more than two years, and I know thousands, I sign. If I do not know, I still sign after verification, but I strike off the two-year line. I suggest for the consideration of the Government that when a Member of Parliament signs, they should remove

that clause of two-year acquaintance. If you do that, we will be able to sign correctly. Otherwise, the Government of India wants me to sign a false statement. No law in this country or in the world can make Members of Parliament, or at least me, to sign something which is false and totally wrong. Therefore, if you make this law, remove that line of two years since the M.P.'s signature is there.

About verification, I am sorry Mr. Bala Pajanor is perhaps not right. We must insist on verification reports signed by MPs, to be sent back to the passport office, because they should know that an M.P. has signed. I appreciate that, we will sign the verification, but please remove the two-year line, do not make me sign a false statement by your law. If you make, I will not sign, and if I do not sign, I cannot serve my people. That is why I say it is very important.

Moreover, if you make any rules or change any guidelines, please inform us. You will be surprised that the Government of India do not inform the M.Ps. whether they have to sign on two or three photographs. So many applicants come and argue with me that three photographs are required. I say Government of India wants only two. If you want us to sign three five ten or fifteen, tell us, we must be informed.

Finally, I can only say that getting a passport is not only a right, it is an obligation on the Government to give these passports to people because we have already come to a stage where holding the passport of a particular country, as of this country, the Indian Republic, is only a legal right, but we are already in a situation, in a time, where we are having a passport of a world order, international relations and international order, both in our hearts and heads. We are world citizens mentally, intellectually and ideologically. We are only citizens of a country nationally. Therefore, do not restrict people from going abroad. This is my request.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर): समापति महोदय, मैं सर्व प्रथम सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। लेकिन इस के साथ साथ मेरा एक सुझाव है। वह सुझाव हो सकता है कि तत्काल इस समय के लिए ठीक न हो लेकिन भविष्य में सरकार को इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। आज विदेश में किस के जाने के ऊपर रोक लगी है? जो बड़े बड़े स्मगलर हैं, बड़े बड़े पूंजीपति हैं जिन पर सरकार चाहती है कि रोक लगे, उन के ऊपर रोक नहीं है। आज जितने भी एण्टी सोशल एलीमेंट्स हैं वे जब चाहते हैं विदेश चले जाते हैं। लेकिन रोक किस के ऊपर है?—रोक उस के ऊपर है जो अपने पेट के लिए रोजी कमाने के लिए विदेश जाना चाहता है। जो मजदूरी करने के लिए, अपने जीविकोपार्जन के लिए विदेश जाना चाहता है उस के ऊपर रोक है। हम से आप पूछें तो मैं कहता हूँ कि यदि सभी देश सहमत हो जायें तो पासपोर्ट के सिद्धान्त को ही खत्म कर देना चाहिए, इस की जरूरत ही नहीं होनी चाहिए। जब हम कहते हैं अनुभव कुटुम्बकम्, समूचा संसार ही मेरा भाई है, मेरा परिवार है तो फिर घूमने पर क्यों रोक लगाते हैं और यदि रोक लगाते हैं तो रोक लगाइए स्मगलर्स के ऊपर, बड़े बड़े लोग जो जासूसी करते हैं विदेशों में उन के ऊपर। लेकिन जासूसी करने वाले के ऊपर रोक नहीं है, एण्टी सोशल एलीमेंट और एण्टी नेशनल ऐक्टिविटी करने वाले के ऊपर रोक नहीं है, तस्कर के ऊपर रोक नहीं है। हम रोज़ भ्रष्टाचारों में पढ़ते हैं कि जिन के ऊपर यहाँ मुकदमा चलना है जिन के ऊपर एन्वायरी हो रही है वह भाग कर विदेश चले जाते हैं, उन के ऊपर रोक नहीं है। रोक किस के ऊपर है और पैसा किससे बसूला जाता है? जो देहात से आते हैं मजदूरी करते हैं, जिन को आप रोजी नहीं दे सकते हैं, रोटी नहीं दे सकते हैं, जब वह विदेश जाना चाहते हैं कमाने के लिए, यहाँ मरने के बजाय विदेश जाना पसन्द

करते हैं तो आप उन से चक्कर लगाते हैं कि एस.एल.ए. के यहाँ आओ, एम०पी० के यहाँ आओ, पासपोर्ट्स आफिस में आओ, इस को घूस दो, उस को दो। इसलिए मेरा यह कहना है कि सरकार को फिर से विचार करना चाहिए कि वर्तमान पासपोर्ट का नियम रहे या नहीं रहे, या बिना पासपोर्ट के भी घबर काम हो सके तो वह भी आप देखें। गरीब यहाँ जा कर के क्या जासूसी करेगा? एक तो मेरा सुझाव यह है।

दूसरा सुझाव यह है कि—जैसा रामजी बाबू ने कहा है—आप की नीति कुछ उदार होनी चाहिए, आप एक दर्शन बना लीजिये—खितने स्टेट्स हैं, सब के हेडक्वार्टर्स में पासपोर्ट्स आफिस खोल दीजिए। हमारे यहाँ बिहार में कोई पासपोर्ट आफिस नहीं है, आप पटना में पासपोर्ट्स आफिस खोलिये। बिहार के लोग घमरी नहीं है, बहुत गरीब है और काफी संख्या में विदेशों को जाते हैं—इस लिये आप बिहार की जनता के लिये पटना में एक पासपोर्ट्स आफिस शीघ्र खोलिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Sir, I want to make only one point, which I forgot to make because of Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan's interruptions.

Last time, I was going to Australia, Singapore and other places on a study tour. What happened was that I was detained in Singapore. There I asked the Embassy people to make an endorsement in my passport. I surrendered my passport to them. They detained me for 7 days and finally they told me that I had to go back to Delhi for getting this endorsement. I had to come back here and after getting that endorsement, I again went on tour. That is the treatment that was meted out to Member of Parliament. I came with a feeling that the treatment

of the Embassy people was not upto the mark.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I endorse these views. Proper treatment must be given to the Members of Parliament. This is a serious charge—a Member of Parliament had been insulted by the Embassy people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kundu will take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): I must thank everybody here. I never imagined that this small Bill will arouse so much of discussion, so much of support and so much of sympathy..

Many of the Members who participated in this debate, gave very many valuable suggestions. Some of them gave me rose garlands and some also threw a few brick-bats but those brick-bats just touched me like flowers because only through criticism, constructive criticism, suggestions, exchange of views democratic form of Government would live and survive. That is the view we cherish so far as the parliamentary form of Governments are concerned.

Before I go into the details, I would again congratulate all of you for having participated in the debate and for giving valuable suggestions. The scope of the Bill is very limited. But most of the Members concentrated their thought to corruption, increase in the cost of fees amendment of the Passport Bill, MP's signatures and particularly the difficulties faced by the poor people. With a lot of affection and sincerity Mr. Vayalar Ravi and many others both on this side and that side, have said how these poor people are really troubled when they go for a passport for going to foreign countries for seeking some job. I am personally aware of it. I can assure this House that any news of corruption that comes to us, we deal it with a firm hand. In spite of our pre-occupation inside India and outside India, when-

ever we come back, whenever we are here, we go to the passport offices and make surprise checks. We go from counter to counter; I stay in the queue. I inform Members of Parliament and also start discussion in the presence of them and of officers, as to how we can improve the functioning of the office. Therefore, I can assure you that so far as corruption is concerned, we will be ruthless. We will not spare anybody on this score. At the same time, somebody said that this entire passport organisation is a den of corruption. This is also not fair. I have seen, there are many dedicated officers who work very hard. They resist allurements. They work with devotion and dedication. They work beyond the office hours also cheerfully just to help the people. To those officers and also to other employees, I convey my sincere thanks....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Our thanks also.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Because it is they who will implement our desires.

Coming to the question of an increase in fee, I do not want to repeat what I have already said. Mr. Banatwalla is not here. I do not know from where he got those figures. While I made my initial speech, I gave a rough break-up of all the expenditure. Mr. Banatwalla, perhaps, in order to have a dig against the Government, did not take those things into consideration. The question is, whether you want efficiency or whether you go on stickling with an increase in fee as it has to be done due to the rise in prices, rentals etc....

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): It is double.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: It was Rs. 5; it was raised to Rs. 15 and again to Rs. 25. It was increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25....

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: An increase from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 is not

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

justified. It is double. In 1971, considering all the expenditure, it was increased to Rs. 25. Now, within a short time, it is a hundred per cent increase. The people who apply for passport are much poorer now than those who were in 1971 because they are job seekers, unemployed people and all that.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: There has been an increase in expenditure on administration and staff. It is not for the first time that the passport fee has been increased. It was increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25. Suddenly, within two years, the load on the Passport department has increased from 4.5 lakhs to 9 lakh passports. Last year, we issued about 9 lakh passport. Consequently, all sort of work has increased. If you want to cut down the delay in giving passports, if you want to make the machinery more efficient, certain amenities have to be provided. Had there been Mr. Banatwalla here, I would have told him one thing. He was there in the R.P. office in Bombay. Does he know what rent we are paying? We are now paying more than Rs. 1 lakh per month. I cannot give you now the detailed list of all the expenditure. We had calculated that the cost per passport will come to about Rs. 45/-. If we add Rs. 3.50 as registration charges, postal charges, it comes to Rs. 48.50. We are left with only Rs. 1.50. But by the time one year elapses, there will be further hike in prices and the prices will go up. We do not want to fleece the poor people. There is no way out. If you want to have some sort of efficiency, if you want to lend some efficiency to the whole machinery, if you want the machinery to work efficiently a certain amount of increase in fee has to be there. It is with a lot of hesitation that I have come up with this proposal. We know that this is the only rubbing point on which you will pull our legs. But I am sure, you will not succeed in that.

Coming to the other point about having a comprehensive Bill, I entirely agree with you. It is necessary and

I also feel that some portions of the Passport Act need to be amended. The suggestions given by Mr. Bala Pajanor and Mr. Vayalar Ravi are most welcome. We will look into them.

At the same time, a reference was made about the Emigration Act of 1922. As I said outside the House, it is almost outmoded....

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppy): Are you aware of the corruption prevailing in the Bombay office?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Corruption is everywhere. We have to tackle it with your cooperation.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: We have brought up the matter several times. It is still there.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: We are tackling it.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: This Bill is not intended for that.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Though this immigration matter is not connected with this, since some hon. Members have referred to it, I thought I should say something about it here.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppy): I request you to make on the spot study along with some Members of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: My dear friend, within a month, I have gone twice there and I have made on the spot study. I also paid a surprise visit and I know some of the problems which I do not want to disclose herein the national interest. We are seized of the problems. We have taken some action against some people. Some people have already been punished and much more is coming.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: We are fully aware that you are doing all your efforts and we are grateful to

you; because I am feeling that you are trying to curb the corruption. His only request is to do some thing more. But we want to know about the Act. What are you going to do about it?

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): Before the Minister continues, you have to extend the time of the House.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: He has extended it. About the immigration Act of 1929, that Act we are going to amend. We are going to bring about an amendment some time possibly during the year in the House; and already a draft amendment is ready. A committee of the officers are going into it. During the period that we have come over here, for the last 14 months or so, we have really liberalised it. We do not want that the genuine people who go abroad for getting jobs in West Asia should be, in any way, harassed. Therefore, we have introduced many liberal procedures. And even those people who do not have job vouchers, who do not have job permits, we allow them to go abroad if they can bring a 'No Objection Certificate' which will entitle them to remain with some of their relatives there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: Are you considering of giving this power to the Members of the Assemblies also to sign them?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: As you must have heard, Mr. Balbir Singh and many other MPs also had said that these people are being harassed by unscrupulous people, by touts and by some other agents; and they are in trouble. What we are going to do is that we have to adopt such a policy so that genuine job holders can go.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): That is why you have introduced this system for Members of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him conclude.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Therefore, in short, we have to streamline the entire organisation so that the real people who have jobs, who go there, should not be harassed. Coming to the difficulties, as far as Members of Parliament are concerned, when they verify these applications we have still to find out how these difficulties would be less and less. There is a proposal already if we can authorise MLAs to verify this application and we are seriously considering all these things.

If sometimes somebody telephones you or some of our officers write to some MPs, saying whether the signatures are genuine or not, I hope you will kindly oblige them and I will see that they should not disturb you frequently by telephoning you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: There is nothing wrong. People can forge the signatures of the Members of Parliament. They must be verified. There is nothing wrong. They are doing a right thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You make a note of it.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Mavalankar has also suggested very forcefully that we should not ask Members of Parliament to certify that they know somebody for two years.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Why should you by law force us to tell a lie in this matter?

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: He has already made it clear.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: What I said was that you had made

[Shri Samarendra Kundu]

a suggestion and we will very sympathetically consider this suggestion. That is what I have told you.

(Interruptions)

Some Members have raised a point about Diplomatic Passports. They have said that Members of Parliament should be given Diplomatic Passports. Members of Parliament when they go out on official duty, are given Diplomatic Passports. (Interruptions) The whole list of Diplomatic Passports which was drawn up earlier is under review; we are re-thinking on it, we are re-thinking how to make this list up to date. There have been various suggestions from various quarters. Keeping all these in view and the discussion in this House, we will try to draw up that list again and see how far we can accommodate the desire of the Members of Parliament.

I do not think that there is anything more to be said on this. I think, I have covered almost all the points..

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: How did you anticipate Parliamentary approval for the increase in fees?

SHRI SAMARENDR KUNDU: Prof. Mavalankar made a point forcefully that we should not have anticipated Parliamentary approval. He knows this—he is an intelligent man—that we will never anticipate anything. The Bill says that the difference between the fee as approved in the legislation and the fee already paid is payable. So, they will pay only the difference after the Bill becomes law. If anybody does not want to pay the increased fee now, we can not compel him. He is free to pay only Rs. 25. But we will be collecting the difference when this Bill becomes law. (Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Minister has not answered one question. During 1975-76, during the Emergency, some passports were impounded in foreign countries especially in Kuwait and some other areas. Be-

cause of the prejudice of some officers—I do not want to name those officers—especially in Kuwait, the passports of innocent people, the passports of many Keralites, were impounded without any valid reason. Their applications are pending in the Ministry. Will you consider them favourably and return the passports to them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make a note of it.

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : मैं एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ। राजस्थान के हजारों भादमी यहां आते हैं। आप मुझे बता दें कि जयपुर में दफ्तर कब आप खोलेंगे ? (अवधान), अभी वहां नहीं खुला है। अगर आप कहें कि दस दिन में खुल जाएगा। तो मुझे तसल्ली हो जाएगी।

SHRI SAMARENDR KUNDU: You come from Rajasthan—I now feel that you really come from Rajasthan. Jaipur is in Rajasthan. We have already decided to open an office in Jaipur. (Interruptions)

श्री नाथू राम मिर्धा : देश के हजारों घर बरबाद हो रहे ह, उनके घर लुट रहे हैं.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your points.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I never stand in this House to disturb anybody. But I want an answer on one point. I want another answer. He is a liberal Minister and a good Minister and I am therefore asking another question.

जिनको पासपोर्ट के लिये दूसरे लोग ठगते हैं, उनके घर बरबाद हो जाते हैं, 5-5, 10-10 हजार रुपए उनका मारा जाता है, इस को रोकने के लिये आप रजिस्टर्ड एजेंटियों को अगर लाइसेंस कर दें तो यह ठगाई बन्द

हो जायगी। इसके बारे में प्रायक क्या
कहना है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please take your seat now.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: As I have said, you know very well that we have taken a decision to open an office at Jaipur. Since you want it, in August—September we will open it.

So far as other States are concerned, there also we are taking very quick steps to open it. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat: you have spoken in detail and have made so many points. (Interruptions). Please don't interrupt. Mr. Minister, please carry on. (Interruptions). The Minister may carry on.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I have concluded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the motion for consideration to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Passports Act, 1967, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—(Amendment of section 5)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there are several amendments. In regard to amendments Nos. 1 and 2. Shri Anant Dave is not here. Shri Banatwalla is also absent. Then, Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I move:

Page 1, line 12,—

for "rupees fifty" substitute—

"rupees twenty-five" (7)

Page 2,—

after line 15, insert—

(c) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(4) Any application for the issue of passport shall be disposed of within a period of six weeks from the date of its receipt". (8)

Sir, I want to make a few observations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will speak afterwards. You have to move them first. Now, Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I move:

Page 2,—

after line 15, insert—

(c) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(4) Any application for the issue of passport shall be disposed of within a period of two months from the date of its receipt". (10)

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: I move:

Page 1, line 12,—

for "rupees fifty" substitute—

"rupees fifteen" (13)

Page 2,—

after line 15, insert—

(c) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(4) Any application for the issue of passport shall be disposed of within a period of three weeks from the date of its receipt". (14)

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I move:

Page 1, line 12,—

for "rupees fifty" substitute
"rupees forty" (19)

Page 2,—

after line 15, insert—

"(c) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(4) An application for a passport shall be disposed of within a period of forty days of its receipt". (20)

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN NAYAK: I move:

Page 1, line 12,—

for "rupees fifty" substitute—
"rupees thirty". (21)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vayalar Ravi, you wanted to speak on your amendments.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already made

my point. The number of passports issued by the department has gone up from 3.5 lakhs to one million. The income of the department has, therefore gone up and, thus, there is no point in increasing the passport fee.

Secondly, we may also fix a time limit for disposing of these applications....

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, it may be taken up tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that further discussion on this Bill may be continued tomorrow.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vayalar Ravi, you may continue tomorrow.

18.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 28, 1978/Sharada 6, 1900 (Saka)